

Cambridgeshire Radio and Television Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers
summarised by

Mike Petty

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the Cambridgeshire Weekly News. They are supplemented by some articles published in the Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library together with have detailed cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the 1960s.

The complete ‘Cambridgeshire Scrapbook’ of which this is a small section is published online at bit.ly/CambsCollection.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check. There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.
I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

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1896

Rutherford transmits first radio signal from Cavendish laboratory to Madingley Road Observatory
[1.15]

1904 01 18

A Warkworth Terrace man told Cambridge magistrates that he believed his neighbours had some artificial means of making their voices heard by him alone: "They use talking machines and electric wires contrived to convey sound to a certain point only. I have seen what look like an electric telegraph wire in their garden beside a system of beams, boards and ropes which I conclude to be part of some telephoning system. Nearby in Melbourn Place there lives a telegraph clerk who searches my room with an exceedingly strong electric searchlight and conveys a message by Marconi's wireless telegraphy to let them know the right time to call out and wake me"

1907 07 02

The Amalgamated Radio-Telegraphy Company, who own the experimental wireless telegraph stations at Cambridge and Oxford, are converting their appliances to the wireless telephone system of Mr Poulsen, the Danish inventor. It is believed that when the arrangements are completed the voice of a person in Cambridge will be audible at Oxford sixty miles away 07 07 20a

1908 08 14

Wireless telegraphy discovered in Cambridge – CWN 08 08 14

1910 08 19

The Crippen capture has caused Cambridge citizens to pay far more respect to the wireless telegraphy pole standing near the Huntingdon Road. More interest has been aroused by the fact that Crippen and Le Neve's whereabouts were noted by wireless than has been manifested since the invention was first made. 10 08 19c & d

1913 02 28

Cambridgeshire has been chosen for a series of experiments with the new patent wireless telegraphy apparatus invented by Senor Marconi, which can be fitted on four pack horses and erected in six minutes. The first experiment was made at Saffron Walden when the new 'Pack Station' consisting of a small petrol motor, transmitter and receiver and 30ft high aerial mast was erected on the common and wireless messages were received from Chelmsford. Next day it was erected at Somersham where experiments were continued. It will be moved across Cambridgeshire 13 02 28 p8 CIP

1914 11 20

The Germans had a great network of spies, County Councillors were told. The county should be purged of all spies or people of treasonable actions. The Emergency committees which were being formed should ensure people were not installing secret petrol stores for Zeppelins or watch for partisans with carrier pigeons or wireless apparatus. University Laboratories were doing much undisclosed research involving explosives and chemicals and employed a high proportion of aliens. A man who had watched army evolutions on Parker's Piece was pursued and arrested by two police constables after an old lady denounced him as a spy. A large number of naturalised German people lived locally but in the zeal to put down espionage an enormous amount of injustice had been done. 14 11 20

1917 07 25

Wireless telegraph mast Huntingdon Road damaged by high winds, old sailor climbed to top, 214 ft to repair – 17 07 25a

1920 05 29

News by wireless phone; CDN report picked up message from wireless station near Lands' End

1921

Pye Ltd changed to radio 1921 when lapse in demand for instruments; 210 ft aerial mast put up at start war to help develop defence systems & once used very low power experimental tv programmes

1922

Broadcasting in public sense starts, Pye radios sell well [1.15]

1922 07 22

Cambridge Daily News start series of articles instructing in use of radio receiver [2.11]

1922 09 16

Wireless amateurs who are not owner-occupiers are discovering that landlords object to the putting up of aerials. Radio enthusiasts will probably do better to wait until it becomes certain on what lines the broadcasting hobby will be developed and perfected. It is not making such rapid progress as people expected and those who wait a little will probably save money. By all accounts it will not be necessary to have aerials at all. Any ordinary electric light installations will provide all that is necessary for an efficient wireless aerial. If there is neither electric light or bells, gas pipes can be used, or failing this a wire garden fence, or it may be said nothing more than a pair of knitting needles will be essential. All this remains to be proved and just as it took a long while to perfect the gramophone so we must expect it to be with wireless developments 22 09 16

1922 10 20

An open meeting of the Cambridge Wireless Society was held to hear a wireless concert from the transmitting station of Mr H.W. Taylor of Camden House. Owing to some unknown cause the receiving set would not function and steps were promptly taken to acquire two further sets of reputed make, and again these failed to act. At about 9p.m. however Mr Taylor's voice was heard on the loud speaker, and for about half-an-hour gramophone selections were received, but the reception was by no means the success it should have been. The committee wish to apologise to all those who so patiently awaited the reception of the concert and, unfortunately had to leave without hearing anything

1922 11 21

The growth of wireless since its first invention is truly wonderful, and one cannot fail to be impressed with the way in which it has been simplified. The present arrangements for "broadcasting" have resulted in the setting up of many private installations in Cambridge and some of the finest "sets" are being produced at Messrs G.H. Pye's works in Cam-road. In 1921 this firm experienced a very slack time, and in order to keep their workers employed, they commenced experiments in wireless. They are now producing as fast as they can simplified receiving sets of two to five valves 22 11 21

1922 12 09

The Cambridge & District Wireless Society had a "full house" at their demonstration on broadcasting. Mr T. Robinson, manager of Pye's Scientific Instrument Co. had very kindly consented to demonstrate their latest broadcast receiver of five valves attached to which was a Magnavox loud-speaking telephone. Mr Robinson tuned up for the London broadcasting station and amongst the items heard were Mr Vivian Foster, known to Cambridge theatre-goers as the "vicar of mirth" who entertained the audience by his witty sayings. During the evening the Birmingham and Manchester broadcasting stations were also received. The latest news, billiard scores, market reports and latest weather report were items among a very varied programme 22 12 09

1923 07 28

There are new pleasures in store for workhouse inmates. Amazed and almost disbelieving that the music and songs were being heard from "Lonnion" the inmates of the Ely Union were given a wireless concert by Mr Charles Howes. Two receiving sets were used, one to operate the loudspeaker, and the

other to make the music audible in the headphones. Two aerials were erected, one outside and the other slung across the dining room where the concert was given. During the evening the London broadcasting station mentioned Ely, and said they hoped the concert would be received well at the Tower House, and that it would be enjoyed by those who were listening in for the first time. That the hope was realised, goes without saying

1923 07 30

Soon after seven o'clock on Sunday evening passers-by in the vicinity of Newmarket Road were somewhat surprised by the appearance of a saloon car carrying a wildness outfit. The aerial was comparatively large, and was suspended from two poles at either end of the roof. The sight was sufficiently rare to cause much curiosity and comment. A number of new inventions have been referred to in our wireless articles and it is easy to foresee that in a few years, far from being a novelty, no car will be complete without its wireless installation 23 07 30

1923 12 20

Cynics have said that toys are but the parental antidote to the infantile depression resulting from over-eating. Be this as it may, toys are an indispensable part of Christmas, and the parents who take their children to Laurie and McConal will experience considerable difficulty in getting them out again. There are toys large and small, cheap and expensive, the sort of toys to keep, and the sort to give to the destructive child. They are also making a special feature of wireless sets this year, and have a large variety on show

1924 01 04

The former Clocks and Gramophone Works at Huntingdon have been purchased by the firm of J. E. Hough Ltd of the Edison Bell Works, Peckham, and are to be opened early this year for the manufacture of gramophone records and wireless parts. Employment to between 300 and 400 hands will be given by this new industry. The factory has remained inactive for a year and the town has suffered as a result. It will be used for making the well-known "Winner" records. Powerful engines still in the building will be made use of, but it will also be necessary to introduce additional steam power and heat

1924 04

Crowds on Market Hill listen to Kings speech at opening of Wembley exhibition [2.12]

1924 08 12c

A message broadcast from 2LO last night stated that the 16-year-old son of the Rev Dawson Bolton of Haddenham, known as "Sonny", is missing. His height is five feet and he has dark hair with scar under right eye. Information should be sent to the Ely police, through Scotland Yard

1925 01 01

The festive spirit was properly infused into Linton workhouse during Christmastide. The gaily decorated dining room might have been mistaken for a fancy dress ballroom. Streamers stretched from corner to corner while the artificial butterflies settled on the curtains looked quite capable of fluttering on to the artificial roses which embroidered the wainscoting of the room. The wireless set and gramophone each played their part in providing entertainment during the day.

1925 01 03

Schoolmasters complain that the wireless fascination is becoming a menace to education. It is the exception for the schoolboy not to interest himself in wireless and it is he who in a vast number of cases, has installed it in the home. The youthful enthusiast usually makes his own set and prefers to occupy himself in this way to poring over home lessons. Sometimes however there is no convenient place in which to do his homework if the rest of the family want to listen to a loud speaker. This should not be allowed by parents, and there is the alternative of the silent head-phones.

1925 01 09

The Matron of Saffron Walden workhouse reported unfavourably on the effects of a wireless set. All of the inmates are in bed by 8 o'clock and it was thought that the class of entertainment provided before that hour would be unsuitable for them and would do harm to the sick in the infirmary. A gramophone could be moved from ward to ward. If a gramophone was provided they did not want noisy records, but old-fashioned family tunes. It was hoped the public would pass on any old records they did not want.

1925 02

Fulbourn Hospital medical superintendent reported that at various times concerts were given to the patients, but they seemed to like cinema performances more than anything, and he was looking forward to the time when they had a cinema there. He was told that the hospital was ideally situated for a wireless installation. Diet was satisfactory and the farm supplied all the milk required, also fresh vegetables and pork.

1925 03 14

Machinery was whirling, wireless valves were glowing, loud speakers were in full blast, a cinema lantern was projecting pictures, steam was hissing, and electric sparks were crackling in the Cambridge University Engineering Laboratories when 1,000 guests attended a conversation to mark the completion of the equipment of the new laboratories at Scroop Terrace. It is only necessary for the front lecture room block to be erected ere the whole of the building will be complete

1925 05 20

Cambridge Poor Law Guardians considered installing wireless apparatus at the Institution. Mrs Keynes said some members were not entirely satisfied that it would be a very great boon to the inmates, partly because of the nature of the entertainment and partly because the best part of the performance usually came on after their inmates had gone to bed. The chairman handed round copies of the "Radio Times" to enable members to see the types of programmes given. Messrs Allin's estimate for a six-valve set with five loud speakers was £65. Chesterton Institution had installed three loud speakers and they were appreciated 25 05 20

1925 07 22 c

Thunderstorms swept the country. When the storm was at its height, a four-valve A.J.S. wireless set at Manor Farm, Orwell was wrecked and considerable damage was done in the sitting room where it was installed. The set was switched off at the safety switch but notwithstanding this the lightning passed through the set and there was a loud explosion, parts of the set being scattered all over the room.

1925 08

Mammoth Show committee launch 'wireless year' aiming to provide Addenbrooke's Hospital with a phone at each bed [1.16]

1925 08 08

In the House of Commons reference was made to complaints by hundreds of listeners in Essex that since the removal of the high-power station of the BBC from Chelmsford to Daventry, their crystal sets have been rendered useless. In view of the fact that these sets were in a large number of cases, in the possession of comparatively poor people, the Postmaster General was asked to take steps to ensure that the wireless news shall become audible in Essex.

1925 10 03

In October when summer time is over, people turn again to books, and now there is a library in every village the population of rural Cambridgeshire need not be at a loss for occupation, recreation and means of improvement during the winter evenings. Borrowers will be glad to learn that many additions have been made. The well-stocked agricultural and horticultural section has been enriched and books on basketry, rush and straw works, hat-making and other home crafts added. Radio enthusiasts have been catered for and there are works dealing with the construction of receiving sets.

A large number of books have recently been withdrawn from circulation as a result of careless handling by readers.

1926 02 15

Cambridgeshire Rural Community Council resolved to purchase three four-valve loudspeaker wireless receiving sets at £20 each, to be sold to villages. They also asked the Women's Institute to sponsor a set, and they had recommended the villages of Orwell and Elsworth. Orwell however, in view of their village hall enterprise, preferred to wait. Ickleton Men's Club had agreed to take one and it had been ordered and would be installed immediately.

1926 03 24

The action of the Master of the Cambridge Workhouse in ordering without authority the fixing of five extra wireless plugs evoked an indignant discussion. The Wireless Committee reported that they had provided for 12 plug points, one of which was in the Master's dining room. He had ordered five extra, including one in his drawing room and another in his bedroom. Mr Lofts asked: "Does the Master want singing to sleep" (Laughter). They did not consider it necessary for the Master to have three plugs in his own quarters and they should be removed 26 03 24

1926 03 30

A splendid film of the Boat Race was screened at the Playhouse on Saturday evening and received a great reception from crowded audiences. Added interest was shown by the inclusion of pictures of the "Go-Ahead" wireless car receiving the copy of the film for Cambridge outside the offices of Pathe Gazette. It came with musical accompaniment as the loud speaker was giving forth the Daventry programme and when broadcasting in Wardour Street, London, the road was blocked by people who stopped to gaze at the novelty and to listen in.

1926 05 12

When the news of the end of the General Strike was broadcast on Market Hill, Cambridge enthusiastic cheers broke out. "What rotten luck!" an undergraduate was heard to remark, "I only started work today and was looking forward to driving a lorry up to Town". "Never mind, old boy", cynically replied his companion, "They'll be out again in a few weeks". "I'm glad it's all over", remarked a flapper, and then added demurely, "All the 'Varsity boys will be coming back". In many parts of the town children were carrying flags within two hours of receiving the news.

1926 12 16

The Cambridge Camera and Wireless Co. of Alexandra Street offers a very complete range of component parts or complete wireless sets. The famous Pye sets can be seen in their windows, also the self-contained "Britamax All-Wave" receivers. Specialities of this firm include reliable, but cheap H.T. batteries, valves and loud speakers 26 12 16

1926 12 16

It may not be generally known to the Cambridge public that Mr Carne, the manager of the Playhouse, Mill Road, is the "Victor Carne" who figures in the record list of the Vocalion Gramophone Co. He has recorded "The Holy City" and "The Star of Bethlehem" for their Christmas list and these and other of his records are obtainable at Messrs Leavis's, Regent Street. Wireless enthusiasts will no doubt remember the many times he has sung from London and Daventry.

1927 03 19

Undergraduate singers and musicians are distinguishing themselves just now. Following the enjoyable broadcast by the Trinity Madrigal Club I hear that the Quintaginta Band are to appear at the Holborn Empire during Boat Race week. Mr Charles Gulliver who heard them whilst on a visit to Cambridge has made them "a tempting offer" to appear in one of his halls in the Eastern vacation. The salary, however, is not stated.

1927 06 12 c

One of the largest crowds in memory witnessed the last of what may go down in history as the "Microphone Mays". Both banks of the Cam at Ditton presented the spectacle of an unbroken line of sightseers. There were three men up a tree at Ditton Paddock; they and their friend the microphone were telling all England what was happening and theirs was truly a romance of the tree tops. One wonders how many old Cambridge men were listening-in to a drama in which they once played a part.
c27 06 12

1927 12 31

A serious fire broke out at the Edison Bell Gramophone Factory, Huntingdon, as a result of which 400 employees, the majority girls, are thrown out of work. The flames spread with great rapidity and as the majority of the buildings were of wood they were soon caught in the blaze. The works are the property of Messrs Hough Bros, the well-known gramophone record makers of Camberwell and have been in existence a little over three years. They have also added the manufacture of wireless appliances. Lost in the fire were many valuable stocks of records and electrical apparatus.

1928 04 14

At Cambridgeshire magistrates a Dry Drayton man pleaded guilty to using a wireless set without a licence; he was unaware he needed one for a crystal set; fined 10s.

1928 06 05

The first paid Marconigram was transmitted on June 3rd, 30 years ago. It was sent by Lord Kelvin who was visiting Senator Marconi's experimental wireless station on the Isle of Wight. In order to illustrate his belief in its commercial future, Lord Kelvin insisted upon paying one shilling for a wireless telegram to be sent to Sir George Stokes at Lensfield Cottage, Union Road, Cambridge.

1928 06 16

Cambridge has probably more gramophones than any other town of corresponding size. Many people thought that with the advent of wireless the enthusiasm for gramophone music would diminish but this is far from the case, as a walk by the river on a sunny day will show. It would not surprise me to learn that all gramophone records have been broken during the May Week with a sale greater than ever before. Mr Noel Coward, the 28-year-old genius has recorded the music from the revue, 'This Year of Grace' at the London Pavilion

1928 06 28

Mr & Mrs Burling of Milton were in their house during a thunderstorm. The aerial of his three-valve wireless set was attached to a large tree and the other end to the front of the house. Suddenly there was a tremendous clap of thunder and a noise like an explosion. The room was full of sparks and fire; he heard his wife scream and saw her hair was on fire. With great presence of mind he put out the flames and carried her into the next room. The curtains were alight and two of the wireless valves were completely broken.

1928 07 17

The New Theatre became a wireless studio and, with those present as the studio audience, a variety concert was broadcast from Cambridge. It had all the features with which listeners are so familiar, with exhilarating dance music, full-blooded radio melodrama and the much-maligned talk. "Just a Broadcast" introduces Mr Sidney Firman and his London Radio Dance Band. Cambridge wireless fans who have listened to the band's efforts over the ether will welcome the opportunity of seeing this sketch which takes listeners to the other side of the microphone and purports to show them what really does happen in a wireless studio. Mr Firman's items are announced through a dummy microphone in the approved radio style and the 'effects' in the wireless play are not the least amusing features of their turn.

1928 09 11

The Cambridge works of Messrs W.G. Pye, the well-known scientific instrument and wireless apparatus makers were entered and the workshops and office ransacked. The works consist of several blocks of buildings extending from Cam Road to St Andrew's church at Old Chesterton. The visitor got into the transformer shop and then into a corridor by means of a hole which had been made in the wall for the fixing of a checking clock. Practically no damage was done and only a small sum of money is missing. It appears he was not a wireless enthusiast because none of the wireless parts were taken

1928 10 18

Cambridge Guardians have sanctioned the provision of a cinematograph at the Poor Law Institution. A Kodascope machine will be installed and a subscription raised to cover the cost of £1 a week. The provision of music on cinematograph or wireless was just as much part of the Institution as providing medical and dental treatment. They also considered the installation of a system of telephones

1929 08 21

Wireless broadcasting masts, Ely – CDN 21.8.1929

1929 09 18

New wireless station transmitter benefits Cambridge CDN 18.9.1929

1930 03 12

A crowd of nearly 3,000 massed in front of the loud speaker which Pye Radio had installed in the main window of the Cambridge Guildhall. Business in the market was suspended and the lanes between the stalls were solid with people. In the shops and offices there was a general cessation of work; counters and desks were forsaken and faces appeared at every window. There was a cheer when the Cambridge boat crew drew level and overtook Oxford. Workers hurrying home eagerly bought copies of the special edition of the CDN and pictures are being shown at the Central and Tivoli cinema this evening. 30 03 12

1930 04 08

Councillor Mrs Rackham first came to Newnham College in 1895. Returning on her marriage in 1901 she entered into public life as school manager, Guardian and town councillor. In 1902 she started the first local branch of the Women's Co-operative Movement. Her clear-cut voice is well-known on radio and she has recently completed a series of six talks from Savoy Hill on Local Government. She is also a journalist of standing and has contributed a column to 'The Woman's Leader' for the last seven years. 30 04 08a

1930 09 12

The Edison Bell Gramophone and Radio Works at Huntingdon employ over 300 people. About 30,000 'Radio' records are made each week; they are stamped out between dies and passed to girls to put the edge and finishing touches. Various gramophones and wirelesses are manufactured including compact two and three valve 'all-main' sets in preparation for the Radio Exhibition. Amongst the machinery used are automatic lathes which need no human attention. 30 09 12

1930 12 20

Millers all-electric wireless receivers photos – 30 12 20

1931 07 17

A wireless broadcast relay service may be installed in Cambridge. Rediffusion wish to place wires over the streets and would pay the Corporation £250 per annum for the first 1,000 subscribers. The charge would be 1s 6d a week, plus sixpence for a loud speaker and ten shillings for the Post Office wireless licence. But the service was limited to one programme and was nothing like as good as having a set of your own 31 07 17f

1931 08 28 c

The Cambridge Radio Relay Company has been formed by local firms. Many people who would not go to the bother of erecting aerials could get really good reception for a moderate outlay. The best programmes would be broadcast, trouble free and without the erection of unsightly posts and wires. The mains are carried by arrangement with G.P.O. telephone lines to the various districts. The service would also be useful for local S.O.S. messages by locating people at short notice. 31 08 28c

1931 08 28

'Hello! Folks', the wireless celebrity entertainment which presents world-famous BBC stars in person will be produced at the Cambridge New Theatre. It will be presented by Tommy Handley, the renowned comedian, and include the Fayre Sisters, Mabel Marks, Wilson Hallett who mimics children, Mario Lorenzi the West End concert harpist and Jack Payne the whistling newsboy 31 08 28d

1931 10 19

A combined exhibition by members of the Wireless Retailers' Association opened at the Cambridge Guildhall. J.T. Harvey of Aylestone Road is showing sets all of his own manufacture, the receivers being especially adapted for Cambridge listeners. W.K. Islip displayed Murphy Ultra products as well as Cossar kits and Beethoven portables while R. Lathbury of Castle Street sells Kelster Brandes including the Kobra three-valve complete with loud speaker. 31 10 19g & h

1932 01 04

The Marconiphone Company has brought a unique radiogramophone entertainment to Cambridge where the public can hear the instruments and judge their powers of reproduction in perfect ease and without any sense of bewilderment. Gramophone records are utilised to provide a 'discussion' between the instruments with a running commentary on their virtues. What better way could be found to demonstrate them. 32 01 04

1932 01 22

Pye Radio invited people to inspect their works and queues five or six deep stretched halfway up Haig Road. It is amazing that a non-industrial town should have such fine works and few realised that we in Cambridge had such an important and highly organised industry in our midst. In these times of depression it is a novelty to find a works which is really flourishing. Despite making 4,000 sets a week, demand is greater than supply and they are planning to increase the size of the works by 50 percent. 32 01 22c & d

1932 05 03

Cambridge Metal Stamping Company's plans for the erection of a factory on land off St Andrew's Road, Chesterton would endanger the beautiful prospect from the river. Alderman Starr said he had viewed the site and been surprised to see a very large building for Pye's Radio Works had already been erected on the opposite side of the road. Factories were being built without consent of the council but this one could be blocked under the town planning scheme. There were other places it could go. 32 05 03 & a

1932 11 18

H.R.H. Prince George toured the Pye Radio Works where 1,500 hands produce 4,000 radio receivers a week. This is the first time a factory engaged in Britain's newest and most progressive industry has been honoured by a Royal visit. The operatives gave him a rousing reception – the girls were especially enthusiastic: it was a wonderful study to observe their varying expressions as he passed through the workshops. "Oh, he's lovely" was the general verdict and every detail of his dress, appearance and manner have furnished a fruitful topic of conversation in Cambridge homes 32 11 18a

1933 01 13

Sir, not many years ago a beautiful pastoral scene might be enjoyed by anyone who stood on the south bank of the Cam with his back to the Gas Works and the destructor chimney and looked towards Old Chesterton Church. Then Pye Radio Company was allowed to erect a factory near the church and now a tall chimney-like structure has been erected not far from the steeple. This has ruined what was once a charming scene – Periscope. 33 01 13a

1933 05 22

Wireless relay service report – 33 05 22a

1933 05 25

Cambridge councillors rejected plans for the provision of a wireless relay service. People who could not afford expensive wireless sets could receive programmes by possession of a loud-speaker. The continual exchanging of unsatisfactory wireless sets was an expensive item for meagre incomes while subscription to a relay would secure perfect reception. But it would give a monopoly of news and programmes into the hands of one company and increase the number of unsightly wires over back gardens 33 05 25

1933 06 16

The Edison Bell factory at Huntingdon, which at one time was a busy workshop for hundreds of hands making gramophone records and parts for wireless, was offered for sale. A large company assembled but there appeared no special demand for the premises which were offered with some of the important fixed machinery. It was withdrawn at £10,000. The disposal of the modern plant and machinery occupied two days and buyers were attracted from a wide area. 33 06 16a

1933 08 15

Televisions blow at film industry – 33 08 15

1933 11 10

Sir - The London and North-Eastern Railway are to withdraw wireless from their London-Leeds trains blaming the ‘prohibitive’ charges announced by the Performing Rights Society for the use of its copyright music. But the fee is only three shillings a week per train and when challenged they now say the service was uneconomic and had never covered its cost. The payment of a fee to the composer is as much a cost of production as the ten shilling licence to the BBC or the installation of earphones – C.F. James, Performing Rights Society. 33 11 10

1933 11 14

The University Engineering Society was packed for the first public demonstration of television in Cambridge with the picture being transmitted from one side of the room to the other and projected on a four foot square screen. After a pause while the transmitter and receiver were synchronised, the room was plunged into total darkness, then suddenly there appeared on the screen the blurred and flickering figure of an undergraduate’s head and shoulders. He caused some amusement by blowing his nose several times. Later a microphone was brought into use and sound, as well as pictures, ‘came across’ 33 11 14 [1.3]

1934 01 10

Mr John Dayton of Godmanchester broadcast from London on an organ he made for himself with odd materials such as egg and soap cases, tea chests, carbide and toffee tins and fancy buttons for stops. The instrument which has amazing volume and extreme awareness of tone took 14 years to build. He plays entirely by ear and can give a programme including Handel’s ‘Largo’ as well as popular songs. 34 01 10

1934 05 29

The new Cambridge Post Office in St Andrew’s Street was needed to meet ever-growing demand. People knew they could obtain wireless licences, motor licences and gun licences but not that they

could get marriage licences as well. There was criticism that the stamps remained the same but it was not policy to make money out of philatelists by creating unnecessary issues and would mean altering stamp machines. Now deliveries would improve and the 26,000 letters a week delivered by second post will in future secure first post delivery. 34 05 29 & 30

1934 07 18

A complaint was received about a wireless set at Downfield, Soham. This was a quiet, rural housing site where the people should be happy and comfortable. But one person had got an infernal machine called a loud speaker and was operating his wireless set at high volume. Such people should be put in the middle of a 40-acre field. Everybody paid the rent and had a right to peace and quiet, so a letter should be sent stating that the nuisance should be stopped. 34 07 18

1934 07 28

The 'His Master's Voice' show train arrived at Cambridge station as part of a national. It is one of the greatest collections of radio and gramophone instruments ever assembled. Visitors can see everything from a Columbia self-contained battery receiver to a luxurious ten-valve automatic record-changing radiogram. Other exhibits include a radio receive with no visible loud-speaker, the music being heard from behind the dial of an electric clock. The train carries its own power station, café and sleeping accommodation. 34 07 28

1934 11 29

Many Cambridge people listened to the Royal Wedding of the Duke of Kent and Princess Marina by medium of the wireless. Some of those without a set hired one for the occasion. A CDN report who listened to the broadcast in a car was able to hear every word of the ceremony as microphones followed the progress of the two lovers inside the Abbey. The sweet singing of the choir and the pealing of the organ mingled into one glorious harmony. Then millions of listeners in cottage and mansion, in office and home heard the royal lovers plight their troth – and heard the voice of the beautiful Princess Marina for the first time. 34 11 29 & a

1935 01 07

Sir Alfred James Ewing of Herschel Road, Cambridge, was the brains behind the famous 'Room 40'. When the Great War began he was asked to undertake the task of collecting and deciphering enemy messages. Numerous listening stations were set up on the East coast at which enemy fleet signals and other wireless messages were received. From December 1914 the German Fleet made no movement which was not known in advance. The work was probably the best-kept secret of the war and the full story has never been told for he was refused permission to deal with it in his reminiscences 35 01 07a & b

1935 04 06

"A broadcast of the future": old rowers watch race on large TV screen – 35 04 06

1935 05 04

One of the most memorable features of the Jubilee celebrations for King George V will be a retrospect of the reign which has been prepared by Prof Harold Temperley for broadcasting. He calls it a radio dramatic and historical drama. He was assisted in his research in the Royal Archives by Miss Sybil Crowe, a former student of Girton and the gifted and artistic producer was by Lawrence Gilliam formerly of Peterhouse. Both were formerly his pupils. 35 05 04a

1935 10 07

The Cambridge Wireless Retailers Association show has several stands carrying a full range of the local product, Pye, including the all-wave model, the radiogramophone and the battery and all-elect superhets and portables. For those who have a preference for non-factory made sets there is the Harvey model. This locally-made receiver is made by hand with all the skill and care which expert workmanship can give it. One of the features for which it is noted is its great reliability. 35 10 07b

1936 01 07

"This coupon'll win us a thousand pounds" jokingly prophesied a Cambridge man to his wife on Christmas day after he had filled in his football pool form while she had a glass of port with a friend. And no one was more surprised than he when his forecast came true. The lucky man, Mr 'Dick' Morgan of Cambridge Place, was at work when a CDN reporter brought definite news of his success. He had not heard the wireless announcement as the accumulator of his set had run out. 36 01 07

1936 01 17

It is many years since Raymond Bennett was a Cambridge semi-professional entertainer who made early appearances in cine-variety at the Playhouse, Mill Road. He has progressed rapidly and Cambridge audiences now have an opportunity of seeing him at the Theatre Cinema with his partner of many broadcasts. Bennett and McNaughton have achieved great success on the music halls, including the Holborn Empire, and have attained great popularity as broadcasting stars. Those who have listened to their broadcasts will be glad of this opportunity of renewing acquaintance with a popular local artiste 36 01 17

1936 01 21

The news of the death of our beloved King came to the people of Cambridge by means of the wireless. The late afternoon bulletins prepared listeners for the worst and a solemn vigil began. In hundreds of homes families sat by the fireside waiting anxiously for the quarter-hourly bulletins which were given by the BBC. It was as if the whole nation were waiting at the King's bedside. At the Dorothy Café, where the Fulbourn Mental Hospital Staff dance was in progress, the news of the King's death was learned at half-past-twelve. At once the dance was terminated. 36 01 21

1936 02 21

First pre-war wireless in Cambridge [1.1]

1936 03 23

The King's Coronation may be televised as will next year's boat race, Post Office engineers were told. "How are we going to do that? Some think that in 10 years' time people who have got the telephone service will want to use those wires for a re-diffusion service for broadcasts. It means that every wire has got to carry a much greater frequency and you will have to re-lay the undergrounds. I cannot see the end of these expansions. None of us can", the Superintending Engineer asked. 36 03 23 & a

1936 04 23

Cambridge Short Wave Club was formed to foster and maintain interest in short wave radio, discuss problems, provide technical literature and exchange 'junk'. They hoped to install a club transmitter and arrange instruction in Morse for beginners. H.W. Scott presided at the first meeting when a large number of short wave fans attended together with transmitters 5JO, 2PL, 6HD, 2KW and 5PU 36 04 23

1936 06 06

Friends of the Cambridge Town Silver Band will be glad to know that they are to give another broadcast on Saturday afternoon. This will be on the 'National' wave length but all B.B.C. stations are taking the programme. Last time the band opened with an original item by the conductor (Mr R.E. Austin) called 'Cambridge Bells' which featured the melody of the Roman Catholic Church chimes. This time they will start with his new military march 'Cantabrigia'. The band will be having a busy day for that evening they will be playing for the promenade concert on Christ's Pieces 36 06 06b Cambridge Town Silver Prize Band broadcast then return to play at Christ's Pieces – 36 06 15

1936 10 14

The Ely Trades Exhibition staged in the Canning Factory in Bray's Lane has 102 stands covering every branch of local business activity. In addition to the usual trade stalls there are features of unusual interest such as a talkie cinema, up-to-date television apparatus, a café and the only working

model in the world of a roller flour mill. The slogan should be ‘Shop in Ely; don’t pass – buy! The more local people shopped in the city the better the shops would be. 36 10 14a – photo – 36 10 13d

1936 11 13

Ely Cathedral broadcast – 36 11 13a

1936 11 28

The Truevoice Recording Studio in Jesus Lane is now open every day for the producing of gramophone records. Your opportunity to hear yourself on a perfect 10 inch double sided wax record for a fee of 10/6. Children’s voices faithfully reproduced. Specially equipped studio for music and orchestral recordings. These records make ideal Christmas Gifts to your friends. Why not make one and send it to them. They will be delighted – Advert. 36 11 28b

1936 12 12

All Cambridge listened to the farewell message broadcast by Prince Edward from Windsor Castle. At the Theatre Cinema an announcement was made that the feature film would be interrupted for the relaying of the speech by courtesy of the BBC. Just before ten the curtains over the screen were lowered. When they were drawn back a large receiving set was seen in the centre of the stage with a single spot-light shining on it. The lights were dimmed. A tense, almost painful silence fell on the audience. Suddenly it was broken. Sir John Reith was heard. ‘This is Windsor Castle – His Royal Highness, Prince Edward’ 36 12 12a

1937 02 06

Although rebuilt as recently as 1935, Robinson’s garage in St Andrew’s Street has again been enlarged to meet ever-increasing business. This has enabled them to enlarge their radio department which is quite distinct from the motoring side of the business. It is staffed by men who have made radio their special study and offers hundreds of brand-new sets (some in their original cases) at pounds below list prices. The radio service department is one of the finest in the entire country with engineers from Marconi, H.M.V. and Pye factories. 37 02 06c & d

1937 03 03

Cambridge transmitter, G2XV, is one of the most successful amateur short wave radiotelephony stations in the country. Its semi-vertical antenna enables it to be heard on the 20-metre band in almost all corners of the world, including Australia, New Zealand, India, Honolulu and every state in the USA. It is owned by G.A. Jeapes of Perne Road, whose interest in short-wave transmissions goes back to the days before radio broadcasting was ever thought of. 37 03 03

1937 05 12

At the Coronation celebrations one small tent attracted probably more interest than any other with the possible exception of the tea tent. It contained a Pye television apparatus and during the afternoon many availed themselves of the opportunity of seeing the actual Coronation procession taking place. Although Cambridge is almost out of range of Alexandra Palace, everything came through very well. Almost the only interference was experienced when the motor racing was being held in the area only a few yards away 37 05 12b

1937 06 08

Radio Society set up radio station near windmill at St Ives – 37 06 08

1937 11 06

Cartoon showing new Mayor, Saville Peck in a Council radio studio – 37 11 06a

1938 03 10

Cambridge Reference Library was packed to capacity for a lecture and demonstration on television by Mr D. Jackson of Pye Ltd. Severe electrical interference unfortunately ruined the first half of the programme from the Alexandra Palace but when after half-past-nine this eased off they were able to

see some quite good vision signals and appreciate the high standard which can be expected in an area where interference is not so acute as it is in the centre of the town. 38 03 10

1939 01 19

Four radio devotees at Haddenham were fined for using wireless receiving sets without licences. One, in Lode Way, claimed he was a repairer and had no sets of his own but there were several sets in a shed together with an aerial and he'd charged batteries for years. Two accused, living at Vine Farm and Hill Row, did not appear in court. Nor did a man from the Council Houses in Station Road where inspectors had found a fairly new set in working condition – the man had claimed it belonged to a lodger. 39 01 19

1939 01 21

Claude Hulbert, who appears in the film 'His Lordship Regrets' at the Victoria Cinema, was not born in Ely, unlike his brother Jack. He came to Caius aged 17, took part in Footlights productions and made his first professional appearance in Cambridge at the A.D.C. Theatre with Ernest Crampton's concert party 'Cigarettes'. He finds broadcasting easiest, then screen work – if you make a mistake you can do it again, but on stage it's too late, he says. 39 01 21

1939 07 07

Two Littleport wireless and electrical dealers trading as the Granby Service Company in bankruptcy court – 39 07 07a

1939 08 25

Norton & Naylor, electrical engineers, started in Staffordshire Street in 1920; acquired G.N. Edward's business in Bridge Street and added radio & television – 39 08 25

1939 08 26

Sir Alfred Ewing, Prof of Mechanism and Applied Mechanics at Cambridge University 1883-1903 established room 40 where experts deciphered enemy messages and intercepted wireless calls during war 39 08 26

1939 12 27

War could not 'black-out' the Christmas Eve Festival of nine lessons and carols at King's. From the crowded chapel the message of peace and goodwill travelled by wireless across Europe to France, Italy and Switzerland. The candles flickered even after black-out for a test showed no dangerous amount of light could be seen from outside. But there were dark, blank spaces among the rich glory of the stained windows which told of the removal of some of the glass for safety's sake. 39 12 27a

1939 12 29

Christmas was Different. Christmas, 1939, has meant more solemn thoughts than usual for many. In countless homes, the traditional joy and gaiety has been tempered by absence of one or more members of the family. And yet, in spite of gaps at the dinner table, and because the advice to carry on as usual is so obviously sound, there has been little outward change in the character of the Christmas festival. In Cambridge, as elsewhere, people remembered their absent ones, but through the inspiring co-operation of the radio, were able to satisfy themselves that the men in the Services were not forgotten. 39 12 29

1940 05 29

Oscar Borer, Engineer to Ouse Catchment Board had wireless apparatus in car – 40 05 29

1940 12 24

King's college carol service broadcast; residents not allowed as seats for military personnel – 40 12 24a

1941 03 07

Presentation—In recognition of his 30 years' service in the Huntingdonshire Constabulary, P.c. John Hufford, of Huntingdon Town Force, was presented with a cabinet wireless set to mark his retirement from the officers and constables at the police station on Friday last. The Deputy Chief Constable (Supt. E. Afford) made the presentation. 41 03 07

1941 07 26

Cambridge man had wireless set taken from German plane hidden in clothing in his wardrobe – 41 07 26– trial – 41 08 09

1942 05 01

Guard of Honour. There was a guard of honour for Sapper V. A. Hagland, of London, and his Impington bride, Miss I. Meredith, of 19 College Road, after their wedding in the village- on Saturday. The bridegroom was photographed while being greeted by his father, Mr. Wm, Hagland, who, though now retired, was once the oldest driver on the L.N.E.R. He has had a notable career. Starting as a van boy in 1880, he qualified as a driver, and had the "Aberdonian" and other famous expresses in his charge. Mr. Hagland was twice on television, and has also appeared in the "In Town Tonight" programme on radio. He has 14 living children and 24 grandchildren.

1942 07 04

David's bookstall featured in Canadian radio broadcast, started 1886 now one of oldest on market– 42 07 04

1943 04 10

Radio programme to troops features Cambridge requests [1.4]

1943 06 18

"Going to be a bit late Home," -The following message was sent by Second Lieut. Charles Roland Brown, T190473 (a prisoner of war) to his wife, Marjorie Dodd Brown, 31 Trafalgar Road, Cambridge, over the German radio: "Hello, Marjorie darling. I am afraid I am going to be a bit late home. Complications seem to have arisen, so I thought I would spend the time in Germany. It is really a pretty country ... But even though I am far away, my body will be absent, but you will have my heart. Remember the Browns always smile. The German frauleins are pretty, but I am socially confined, so you don't have to worry." 43 06 18

1943 09 09

John Hilton the first Professor of Industrial Relations at CU making regular broadcasts called 'This and that' and writing weekly articles in the News Chronicle. At outbreak of war became Director of Home Publicity in Ministry of Information but stood down to return to broadcasting ... at Cambridge had a team of helpers, each an expert in his own subject and was custom to invite people from Government departments to give them lectures from time to time – 43 09 09; In 1942 approached by News of the World to do same thing for that newspaper and became Director of the News of the World Industrial Advice Bureau which at his death in August 1943 was renamed after him. Based in Cambridge it called on panel drawn from dozens of professors and continued till 1968 [Wikipedia] #

1943 12 11

Cambridge Anglo-American Committee to organise Christmas party from Guildhall, part to be broadcast to US Forces – 43 12 11a

1943 12 18

Gilbert Harding to feature Grantchester postman on Christmas Day broadcast [1.6]

1943 12 28

King's college carol service broadcast – 43 12 28.

1944 01 01

Christmas broadcasts from Cambridge went well – 44 01 01a

1944 10 24

Gardeners' Question Time broadcast from Guildhall – 44 10 24

1945 01 20

George Kidman of Dry Drayton on radio programme, talks of tractor driving – 45 01 20

1945 11 01

Revolutionary new television system demonstrated by Pye Ltd in their television theatre – would allow production receivers for £40 – CDN 1945 11 01

1947 09 06

'Workers Playtime' broadcast from Chivers factory [1.7]

1947 09 15

On Saturday airfields and stations throughout East Anglia will be open to the public. The largest - and by common consent certainly the most attractive of these stations is the Bomber Command operational station at Stradishall. It was from these West Suffolk runways during the latter years of the war that Wellingtons, Stirlings and, later, the giant Lancaster bombers took the R.A.F.'s attack right into the heart of industrial Germany. Members of the public will be invited to control an aircraft in flight by radio. If you feel like dropping a bomb you can do so - at the A.M.L. bombing Teacher

1947 11 20

Many people unable to be in their homes listened to the broadcast of the Royal Wedding in Cambridge cinemas, all of which were thrown open for the purpose, free of charge. The biggest audience is reported from the Central Cinema who estimated the total as being in the neighbourhood of 500. The sound equipment at the Regal broke down at the last minute and the small queue which had formed there was diverted to the New Theatre opposite, where a set had been hastily brought from his home and installed in the foyer by the Manager and the thrilling, impressive and historic service of the wedding of H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth, future Queen of England and Lieut. Mountbatten, Duke of Edinburgh, was heard by a number of people. Messrs Miller ad Sons, Sidney Street, to meet many requests from customers, televised the proceedings in one of their studios, which was packed

1947 12 05

Cambridge is to be first town in which BBC will experiment with outside broadcasting of musical festival featuring BBC Symphony Orchestra – 47 12 05a

1948 01 06

Six Stretham villagers made a B.B.C. recording yesterday to tell radio news audiences of the feat of their Village Produce Association in "exporting" to outside markets from spare-time allotments more surplus produce than any similar association in the country. No less than £600 worth of fruit and vegetables went out from the acres of Stretham allotments and village gardens to markets in Leeds, Manchester and London in 1946. Standing in the wooden- hut Social Club in the village, behind an exhibit of produce grown by members of the Association H.C. Holiday spoke into the microphone with a long lead coming through the window from the compact recording apparatus housed in an ordinary large-type saloon car which stood in the road outside

1948 01 15

By telephone, landline and Transatlantic radio beam the two Rotary Clubs of Cambridge, England and Cambridge, Ohio last night strengthened still further the great bonds of fellowship and friendship existing between them. The event took place in the Oak Room of the Dorothy Cafe at 5pm to coincide in point of time with the regular weekly luncheon of the Ohio club at 12 noon in the Pioneer Room of

the Hotel Berwick. Over ninety Rotarians sat down on this side of the Atlantic to eat baked sugar cured ham, June peas, hot rolls and muffins, sliced Hawaiian pineapple, fruit cake and candy, with coffee and cigars also included in the Ohio club's generous and welcome gift. On the table stood a scarlet-coloured telephone. At 5.30 the 'phone bell rang, Post Office engineers in the room - which had been fitted with amplifier so that all present could hear the speeches - manipulated their controls and President Emburey greeted President R. Hartill of the Ohio Club over the Transatlantic phone

1948 01 20

Often it happens that a visitor to Cambridge says: "Well there's the University; what industries have you?" The answer is invariably on the lines "Oh nothing much - wireless and jam and so on". A visit to the "Cambridge at Work" exhibition in the Corn Exchange will give a much better insight into the activities at the wireless and jam factories, and the other industrial concerns, and will enable him to gain a true appreciation of the part that a light industrial centre like Cambridge is playing in the country's struggle. Pye Ltd are showing the latest in radio and television receivers.

1948 01 21

Any local viewers of television might recently have seen a rather surprising cookery demonstration - during which fish and vegetables were cooked in the space of three minutes. This astonishing revolution in cookery timing was accomplished by means of a pressure cooker. These utensils, which look like ordinary saucepans, were shown at last year's Ideal Homes Exhibition. They are now finding their way in the shops and are being demonstrated at Messrs Herbert Robinson Ltd's Regent Street store. They are made by a subsidiary firm of Messrs Pye Ltd

1948 01 24

Yesterday's "Workers' Playtime" radio programme came from Pye's canteen, Cambridge. Some 850 workers selected by ballot crowded in to enjoy the programme. After preliminary community singing practice the "on the air" red light signal in front of the stage lit up and the audience broke into the programme's signature tune, "Side by Side". The Radio Revellers sang "There's Nobody Here But Us Chickens", "Shoemaker's Serenade" and "Chinatown" in brisk, amusing and original style. They were followed by Forsythe, Seamon and Farrell, the wise-cracking American trio.

1948 03 18

Pye Ltd, celebrating their golden jubilee this year, are to mark the occasion by the gift of two television sets to every college in the University. Describing Pye Ltd as "a fairly important company in the industrial life of Cambridge" Mr C.O. Stanley said that during the war the firm employed nearly 12,000 people, today they had between three and four thousand. He went on to speak of the firm's association with the University - one "so happy and so close that I believe it will always make a mark with the people working with this business". Professor Sir Lawrence Bragg said he had always been very interested in the relation between science and industry and the co-operation that existed during the war showed there were contributions to be made from both sides. He hoped this co-operation would continue in the future

1948 03 23

Sir - May I remind correspondents that they are expecting their television receivers to operate satisfactorily under extremely adverse conditions. Not only are they over 40 miles from Alexandra Palace, which is considered the optimum distance for reliable reception, but they are resident in areas of high density of population, with its resultant interference from all forms of domestic apparatus, such as reaction receivers, vacuum cleaners, thermostatically controlled irons, cookers and water heaters, electric fans and motors, cars and other heavy road transport. They are extremely lucky to be able to receive and signal at all - Radio Engineer

1948 06 26

Six undergraduates have published a report setting forth the possibilities of creating a University Radio Station in Cambridge, operated by undergraduates and broadcasting regular programmes in term time for a local audience. A specimen programme shows it would have excepts from local

functions, interviews, reading, dramatic and musical productions, sport, news and talks on a variety of subjects

1948 07 21

A byelaw to enable action to be taken against those responsible for causing a nuisance with loudspeakers has been agreed by the Watch committee of Cambridge Town Council. The Mayor referred to the nuisance caused by loudspeaker and cinema vans. They resolved that "Any person who by operating ... any wireless loudspeaker, gramophone or other instrument in any street or public place ... to cause annoyance ... shall be guilty of an offence. Any person offending shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £5"

1948 07 23

Radio is to be brought into place shortly to help Cambridgeshire fire fighters. Two fire engines and four staff cars at the Newmarket Road Headquarters are to be fitted with a V.H.F.-type speech transmitter and receiver, similar to those fitted to R.A.F. planes. The fixed 12-watt transmitter will also be used by the police force to originate their message operation. The two fire engines fitted with radio are the ones normally sent out immediately on receipt of a fire call. "The advantage of using radio is that we have no need to depend on telephone for getting reinforcements," said Chief Officer Knowles

1948 09 04

There are now over 41,000 wireless licences in the Cambridge postal area. This represents one licence to every 4.5 members of the population. A recent Post Office survey shows that in some streets like Eltisley Avenue and Alpha Road, almost every house has a wireless licence, while in others only one in three is in possession. Post office officials are still finding a number of unlicensed sets and a further "comb" is being instituted for the purpose of detecting the holders of illicit sets

1948 09 18

Problems arising from the great post-war expansion in the numbers of undergraduates and graduate students at the Cavendish Laboratory were mentioned by Prof Sir Lawrence Bragg in a lecture. They had gone up three times as compared with pre-war. More than 160 researchers were working in the laboratory of whom 110 were research students. After referring to nuclear research he spoke of the radio group, where the start of radar was seen, and where work was being carried on to examine the intriguing radio waves that come to us from sun spots and from the outer space

1948 09 21

Several million people in Great Britain ate their Sunday dinner to a radio broadcast of Cambridge accents and comments from the clubroom of Histon's Barley Mow. Jake Smith told the "Country Magazine" programme some stories of his pumping station during the 1947 floods - how it was swamped out and subsequently pumped non-stop for 336 hours. "Everything went through the pumps", he said, "including a tremendous lot of fish". Fred Toates told of his job of getting rid of rats and rabbits, with wasps and hornets as a summer-time addition. "Funny thing how the hornets get into all the "posh" houses - Doctor's and parsons and such places. Mrs Young Nightingale said "I've always done gleaning ever since I can remember. It's a job you've got to like doing, because it's very tiring. If you don't keep your back down you won't get much

1948 09 25

Speaking on the Radio "Country Magazine" broadcast from Histon Reg Robinson, a Babraham farmer, said "You'll only get one quart out of a waggoner", which had a similar meaning to "a pint out of a pint pot". The "waggoner" was a grey china mug out of which the waggoners of bygone days used to have a quart when they stopped at a public house. "The last one I saw was at the King's Head, Sawston," Mr Robinson added. "Some of them used to have a pattern with a black line round the top". I wonder if there are any to be found in local "pubs" these days?

1948 11 06

There are 758 television viewers in Cambridge; 973 licenses now 48 11 13 [1.9]

1948 11 24

An interesting feature of the Cambridge Accident Prevention Council exhibition is the relaying to the Guildhall of a commentary of the conduct of road users given from a police patrol car touring the town. Members of the public are invited to accompany the commentator in the patrol car. Though police radio is not yet in use in Cambridge special arrangements have been made to fit apparatus which will also be used when the general system comes into operation

1948 11 26

For the first time anywhere in the world, a new series of television was used to promote road safety at Cambridge. Traffic scenes on Market Hill were televised to the Accident Prevention Exhibition in the Corn Exchange. "Closed-circuit" as it is called is the latest development of the Cambridge firm of Pye Ltd. Two cameras were operated, one fixed to the balcony of the Guildhall and the other on top of a van at the corner of Petty Cury. Along this narrow, one-way street, between 8am and 6pm approximately 7,000 bicycles and 2,000 other vehicles pass each weekday. The slow speed of the traffic and its one-way direction helps to keep the accident rate down 48 11 26

1949 01 11

While New Year's Eve celebrations were taking place at the Airport Hotel, Teversham, a builder's labourer broke into the proprietor's sitting-room and stole a wireless set and cake knife. Evidence of seeing a wireless valve lying on the grass verge was given. As it was there the next morning the witness picked it up. The same afternoon he noticed a wireless set inside the Cemetery railings.

1949 01 19

The Cambridge trades fair was officially opened in the Corn Exchange. Among the exhibitors Messrs Alkit show a special January offer of made-to-measure utility suits and suede booties with crepe souls. Messrs Coads are featuring a wide range of children's clothing from baby to teen age. Messrs J. A. Easton Ltd are displaying demonstrations of a "Kara" permanent cold wave hair styling scalp treatments, chiropody and cosmetics. On the stand of Messrs Miller & sons Ltd, is a fine display of reconditioned pianos and the newest models of radio and television, displays being given daily

1949 01 28

"Down Your Way" came down this way when a BBC mobile recording unit spent a day "canning" material for next Sunday's broadcast in the Light Programme. Various personalities of the town, university and district were interviewed by Richard Dimbleby.. Amongst them were Mr R. Shorrock who works for Pest Control Ltd, Miss M. Stuart, secretary of the Arts Theatre, Mr Fred Hudson, a television tester at Pye Ltd, Mrs Maltby who made the robe in which the Queen received her honorary degree, and Mr R. J. Pointer who is a CND linotype operator 49 01 28

1949 02 03

Sir – I should like to appeal to local amateur radio transmitters to refrain from transmitting during the limited periods of the day and evening when television programmes are broadcast. The interference can blot out the picture on all television screens in the vicinity, taking the form of a "trellis" pattern or light and dark bands on the picture. Radio dealers and service engineers have only two hours a day during business hours when they can demonstrate and test television receivers and would appreciate more consideration from the radio amateurs who have the remaining 20 hours during which to transmit (evening programmes occupying about two hours) – Televiewer c49 02 03

1949 02 12

The BBC have completed tests and accepted delivery of a new Outside Broadcast Control Vehicle from Pye Ltd of Cambridge. Everything required for the production and transmission of a complete television broadcast is contained in this unique mobile unit, the most modern equipment of its kind in

the world, including a set of three of the latest Pye turret-headed television cameras. It is the first Pye outside broadcast vehicle produced for the BBC and the first to go into regular service since the war.

1949 03 26

Television brought the boat race into thousands of homes with equipment produced by Pye Radio Ltd playing a prominent part. A Pye transmitter was on the launch "Conseuta" and the static cameras from Barnes bridge onwards were a product of the Cambridge firm. The relay was a tremendous success, with viewers sharing every one of the thrills of this greatest of all boat races. Approximately 600 people heard the broadcast in the Central Cinema. This evening there will be a free television show by Pye in the circle lounge 49 03 26

1949 03 29

A Cambridge firm has scored another technical triumph. The first demonstration of television in Australia was given in Melbourne with equipment made in Cambridge by Pye Ltd. The complete television transmitting station and a supply of receivers were flown to Australia. British enterprise has again won through in face of strong competition from America.

1949 04 18

A police radio network covering Cambridgeshire, the Isle of Ely, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough has come into operation. Now within a few minutes of any incident being reported the nearest cruising police cars can be speeding to the spot. Radio will help greatly in car theft cases, enabling descriptions of missing vehicles to be circulated in a few seconds over a wide area. The Fire Brigade is also in the scheme. The master station through which the whole scheme is controlled is situated at County Police Headquarters, Castle Hill, Cambridge 49 04 18

1949 06 13

Occupants of the caretaker's flat had to escape in their night attire when fire badly damaged the Friends Meeting House in Jesus Lane, Cambridge. The fire caused some anxiety since it occurred in one of Cambridge's three danger zones. It appears to have started in the main hall, where a charred piano and burnt-out settee were evidence of its intensity. The usefulness of the fire brigade's recently-introduced radio equipment was effectively demonstrated for calling reinforcements

1949 09 12

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1949 09 27

A story of high-pressure work since last March under a top-secret cloak lies behind the announcement that Pye Ltd of Cambridge will give the first successful demonstration of colour television in this country at Radiolympia. Research into colour television has proceeded for a long time, but it was only in March that the decision was made to produce the intricate equipment required. The secrecy with which this work proceeded is indicated by the fact that Pye's employees themselves have not yet seen a demonstration. The firm say that colour television is still many years off 49 09 27

1949 09 28

Cambridge men and women were featured in a new series broadcast in the BBC Women's Hour programme. A few weeks ago a mobile recording unit visited Messrs Chivers Factory at Histon. Among those selected to describe their jobs was Miss Ruth Blows, who has been with Chivers for over 30 years. She is employed as a "tapper" – she tests the glass jam jars to make sure they are air-tight. The name of the firm was not mentioned of course, because the BBC does not advertise.

1949 11 08

Pye Ltd have entered the American television market as part of the British campaign for dollars. The equipment consists of a complete television station, including cameras and telecines to project films. A team of five technicians have gone and will help in the demonstrations along with two officials, Mr B.J. Edwards and Mr John Lakin who will demonstrate it to the Federal Communications Commission in Washington.

1949 11 25

“Ben”, the talking dog owned by Mr Alfred Brissenden of Royston, is to make another broadcast. Now eight years old “Ben” will appear on the Light Programme. It will be remembered that “Ben” is no stranger to the microphone, having appeared in television “Picture Page” in September 1946, when he almost “let down the side” by mistaking a fellow artiste’s fur coat for a cat. Eminent veterinary surgeons have examined “Ben’s” vocal apparatus and have been considerably impressed by his accomplishment. Unfortunately when making his NBC broadcast in 1946, “Ben” developed mike-fright and it is hoped his performance on Thursday will reproduce perfectly for the delight of his many fans.

1949 11 29

Damage believed approaching £900,000 was done when fire destroyed several thousand of finished wireless sets, 300-400 television sets and numerous components stored in a hangar rented by Pye Ltd at the former stereo works in Madingley Road. A director said: “Many of the sets were for export. Included in the stock destroyed were several thousand television cabinets. Some of our telecommunication equipment was also stored there, including a complete set of blind landing equipment due to be shipped today

1949 12 27

1700 people crowded into Kings college chapel on Christmas Eve to listen to and take part in the Festival of nine lessons and carols which was being broadcast by the BBC for the 21st successive time. 801 of them were seated in the actual choir, where hundreds of extra seats had been placed right up to the altar. The other 900 sat in the ante-chapel which also had several hundred additional chairs. 3 or 400 more people who formed a queue from the chapel gates to the college entrance were accommodated in the hall, where the service was relayed.

1950 01 04

Radio ham interrupts Light Programme [1.18]

1950 02 21

Well known both on the screen and radio “Old Mother Riley and her daughter Kitty” this week gave Cambridge theatregoers their chance of enjoying their particular brand of comedy in the flesh. There is something for all ages – first the pantomime horse, then begob and begorrah comes the ould lady herself, Old Mother Riley with a laugh-a-line to set you twisting in your seats. We see her deal in her own inimitable way with the breakfast routine with daughter Kitty, sweetheart Danny and troublesome Rodger [SIC] the lodger. Arthur Lucan is “her” usual exuberant self and Old Mother Riley and Kitty McShane delightful as the darlin daughter.

1950 03 01

A swifter and more efficient ambulance service is in action this week – thanks to radio control. This innovation, which has already proved its worth with the police and fire brigade, has had a successful trial with the county ambulance service. Radio control was fitted to their four ambulances and two utilicons by Pye Telecommunications and all vehicles are in constant call from the control room, newly equipped with receiver, transmitter and microphone. A number of Cambridge commercial firms have now followed the lead of Camtax in installing radio telephones and Cambridge must be among the world’s most advanced towns in the field of radio control 50 03 01

1950 03 25

Workers Playtime broadcast from Marshalls [1.19]

1950 05 13

One in four Cambridge homes have radio licence; 2848 tv licences holders in Cambridge area, an increase of 1,227 in a year [1.20]

1950 05 16

A recent weekend exercise of the 250th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, included the dismantling and returning to store of a Bailey bridge which had been erected across the counter-wash drain near Mepal. The phenomenal speed with which the job was carried out is accounted for by the fact that the squadron has a canteen, that in the canteen there is a television set and that on this particular Saturday a very important event in the sporting calendar was being televised.

1950 05 23

Radio will be used by the police on traffic control duties at the County Show at Doddington. A wireless station is being installed on the showground and, in addition to wireless cars, the police will be equipped with "walkie-talkie" apparatus.

1950 09 22

Television viewers in De Freville district found themselves "looking in" to an extra programme after the BBC transmission had finished. An explanation from the Chairman of Pye Ltd, "we were televising at the works on a closed-circuit and there was a leaky cable", he said. A viewer said, "We saw Annette Mills and her puppet kitten doing some washing, Dickie Murdock also appeared as did Jack and Daphne Barker. There was some advertising matter including a reference to the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce. The transmission came from a transmitter the Pye Company was testing out prior to ending it to an exhibition in Berlin.

1950 10 18

Cambridge housing committee recommends the installation of television sets should not be allowed at Donkey common, as it would not be advisable to erect aerials on the roof of the huts. If erected independently they would have to be supported by guy-ropes which might prove a nuisance to other tenants and a danger to children 50 10 18

1950 11 01

Mr C.O. Stanley, Managing Director of Pye Ltd told the Radio Industries Club luncheon, "we have now arrived at a time when we should put down a second television system in this country – a system which operates two programmes on the ultra-high frequency band, both in colour at the same time; one to be operated by the BBC and the other by commercial interests. We have to have alternatives, I don't think it is possible to put out a single programme and cover the tastes of everyone"

1951 01 11

The Minister of Supply, Mr G.R. Strauss, toured Cambridge industry. He visited Pye Ltd, the Marshall organisation and the Cambridge Instrument Company and said he had been 'very favourably impressed by the spirit in all the works'. Although production of radio sets would be curtailed, work on the electronics side of rearmament would absorb employees affected. Rearmament made more demands on the aircraft and electronic industries than on most others, he said.

1951 02 22

A new signal and wireless system for hospital patients, the first of its kind, is being installed at the new maternity unit at Bowthorpe Hall, Wisbech. It provides a two-way direct method of communication between the patient and the sister-in-charge. It also combines normal radio, religious address and gramophone facilities. Each patient is provided with a "pillow phone loudspeaker" placed under the pillow or on the back of the bed and may talk through the thickness of the pillow even in a

subdued voice. The pillow phone can also be installed close to a patient's head and his breathing heard by the sister in the duty room, thus relieving her of constant watching over the bedside.

1951 03 31

Workers Playtime broadcast from Pye [1.21]

1951 07 27

Two hundred London taxis took the road this morning under orders for the first time, over a short wave radio network system pioneered by Pye Radio technicians from Cambridge. In London, at a big party attended by top stage and screen stars to celebrate the inauguration of this new radiocab service was Mr Harry Woolgar, a director of Pye Telecommunications Ltd. He said: "This is the largest radio-telephone system taxi network in Europe and we are planning a larger system capable of directing 1,000 taxis". Pye got the job because it pioneered fitting radio telephones to police cars and ambulances and was the first to use short-wave radio for agricultural use

1951 08 18

The Leys School's survey of Horningsea gives a complete picture of the village. Nearly every house has a radio set, there are 18 telephones and six television sets. Dances are not heavily attended; communication with Cambridge is not good and people do not risk the bus service to go to the pictures. As for occupation the report shows that residents are mainly concerned with the production of food. They are keen newspaper readers, especially on Sundays, but only 16 take the Cambridge Daily News

1951 08 22

Some of the world's leading television scientists are in Cambridge for a Convention at the Cavendish Laboratory. So far as can be seen, television receivers will never again be so cheap as they are today. New valves, new circuits and new T.V. cameras form part of the discussions; two papers have been written by members of local firms. Messrs J.E. Cope, L.W. Germany & R. Theile of Pye-Cathodeon will speak on the Image Iconoscope Type Television Camera Tube 51 08 21

1951 08 28

Addenbrooke's Hospital synchrotron – one of only two in use in the country for the treatment of cancer – was visited by members of the Cambridge Amateur Radio Club. Mr D. Allen-Williams conducted the party round the synchrotron houses and explained the various pieces of apparatus which combine to generate nearly 30,000,000 volts and produce rays of great penetrating power

1951 09 22

Plain clothes motorists' patrols tried on the roads in Huntingdonshire are considered by the men themselves to be a waste of time. The patrols will be continued but for the most part they will be in uniform in the future. Thousands of people saw uniformed police in cars and adjusted their driving accordingly but only a few saw the plain-clothes patrols who were looking for gross driving violations. Another disadvantage of plain-clothes patrols was that the vehicles could not have wirelesses which would give them away, so they could not be got in touch with.

1951 11 08 c

A team of six etymologists was selected for the BBC Programme of "Say The Word" and coached with practice questions at the Houghton Hall, Cambridge. In the basement an elaborate apparatus was connected to the G.P.O to relay the programme directly to the recording chambers of the BBC. A brilliant five-minutes dissertation was provided by Dylan Thomas, the well-known poet, who was filling the role as visiting word expert. Bringing piquant Welsh humour to a funereal topic he illuminated his audience as to the origin of the phrase "Kicking the Bucket" c51 11 08

1952 01 01

The first Provincial 4½ hours' night T.V. service for viewers if their sets go wrong is being operated by Messrs H.W. Peak Ltd., King Street, Cambridge. To the 100 feet aerial above the firm's premises

the Fire Service will tomorrow bracket a V.H.F. transmitted aerial for radio contact with their engineers. A phone call will reach an operator who will contact by radio one of the firm's two servicing engineers who will be at home with a van (and a spare T.V. set) at the ready. He will go to the caller's home. Mr John Peak said: "I feel a T.V. night service is essential, as it is mainly used for evening viewing, when it is annoying for the public to find their set has a fault and they are unable to get in touch with anybody to put it right"

1952 01 07

How to put an aerial above your roof in three not-so-easy stages. 1: call the Fire Brigade. 2: Ask the Chief Fire Officer (Mr Tom Knowles) to fire a rocket attached to a rope over a T.V. aerial crossbar. 3: Use a bow and arrow. All three methods were used in Cambridge by Mr John Peak of the King Street T.V. and furniture dealers. He wanted to bracket a V.H.F. aerial to the firm's existing aerial in connection with their T.V. night service. But the Fire brigade's turntable ladder was a foot short & the rocket missed its mark. Then an arrow from the bow of John Ridgeon (leader of the Cambridge Bowmen) went over the top. Attached to it was the rope with the new aerial which was then hauled up.

1952 01 29

The CDN Radio Fund Committee discussed schemes which will give patients in Addenbrooke's Hospital the best and most complete radio installation in Britain. Every patient will have his own Pillophone giving clear and undistorted reception to him, but inaudible to others, & his own little control panel to change programmes. Another circuit could relay special gramophone records, hospital or other local concerts and events. It might also enable them to communicate with nurses. The installation will be sufficiently complete for television to be added at some later date.

1952 02 22

The first BBC television play to be directed by a Cambridge-born man was seen on Thursday. It was "The Prisoner", a new play by Andrew Cruickshank, produced by Ian Atkins and directed by Julian Amyes who is an Old Persean and brother of Mr S.J. Amyes, news editor of the CDN. He began his professional stage career after leaving the University in 1939 & was President of the University Mummers in 1938-39 CDN 22.2.1952

1952 03 08

Concern has been expressed at the absence of any regulation for the compulsory fitting of suppressors to electrical and other motors. Noise levels in Cambridge have gone up many times since 1939 while day and night thousands of new electrical motors and devices are being put on the market to make matters worse. More and more television and radio owners are having their programmes interfered with because of this nuisance, although it is possible to suppress this interference at the cost of only a shilling or two.

1952 05 03

A hitherto undreamed-of use for the television camera unit – to facilitate under-water research and the location of wrecks – was demonstrated at Pye's Radio works. It was this type of camera which located the submarine Affray and was manipulated from the recovery vessel H.M.S. Reclaim. At present she is being fitted with additional Pye Radio T.V. equipment and when this is completed the BBC will arrange an outside broadcast from the ship. Its visual range is far greater than that of a diver and it can operate at a greater depth. For the purposes of the demonstration the camera was set up in front of a goldfish tank owing to the high mud content of the River Cam

1952 05 19

The Anglo-USA and Allied Services Club on Shire Hill, Cambridge, is now open for service men and women every evening, but although they have the basic equipment and some books and games, there are a number of articles still needed to improve the amenities. Amongst these is a piano. They also badly want a wireless set, a gramophone and records, garden furniture, a ping-pong table and a clock – a particularly the clock

1952 09 12

New-look aerials on one in five city homes [1.22]

1952 10 11

Seven thousand Cambridge television viewers are promised almost perfect reception if official sanction is received for a new T.V. broadcasting station to open early in the New Year. The original BBC signal will be picked up on a 50-foot-high aerial on the "Gogs" and beamed down on the city. John Peak, manager of Peak's King Street television service, the sponsors of the scheme said: "Viewers will receive an almost unmarred signal well in time for the Coronation". The large "H" aerial now on chimney-pots would no longer be necessary; instead a small rod can be hung from the bedroom window.

1952 10 11

Plan for tv broadcasting station on Gogs, sponsored by Peaks who would transmit their own test card - refused [1.23, 2.2]

1952 11 12

Ninety-one percent of the properties in the East Road area of Cambridge fell into the "short life" or "no life" categories the Development Plan inquiry was told. The area as a whole was described as "densely packed". The age of the houses was about 100 years, they were generally poorly constructed and the worst property in Cambridge lay in the area. The plan envisages using Norfolk Street as a local shopping centre to keep East Road free for a traffic route. But Mr S.P. Yarrow, retail grocer at 35 East Road said that if he went to Norfolk Street his turnover would be cut by half. B.G. Reynolds of Renbro Wireless Services, East Road, said he had one of the best positions in the area and business would go down if he moved. They did not see why two shops in East Road should impede the flow of traffic.

1952 11 17

The wired radio system at Old Addenbrooke's Hospital in Trumpington was installed in 1952 after a public appeal organised by the News. Originally it provided the BBC Home and Light programme. The name Radio Addenbrooke's was coined in 1954 when Toc H. started football commentaries which were recorded on tape and late related to patients. Then in 1956 Don Hale started a record request programme. When the new hospital opened a studio was also provided by public subscription 81 08 28 [2.1]

1952 12 08

The familiar voice of Ellis Powell – of Mrs Dale's Diary fame – was heard coming over a loudspeaker instead of a radio by a large crowd waiting outside the new branch of the Co-op on the housing estate at Whitehill Road, Cambridge. Mrs Dale, hatless, but looking warm in a fur coat over her royal blue dress, declared the new store open. She was then the first customer of this modern self-serving grocery store which also has butchery and fish departments attached. People flooded in under the neon strip-lighting and, picking up baskets, made their way round the well-packed shelves, which seem to include every grocery imaginable.

1953 05 02

The Post Office Television Detector van is commencing a tour of the Cambridge district as part of an intensive 'comb' to find illicit television receivers. At the moment there are 8,750 television licences in the Cambridge area but it is known there are still a large number of people who have bought sets but not taken out licences. The equipment in the van is so sensitive that the position of the houses containing working televisions can be pinpointed even when the van is moving down a street. Portable equipment allows for detection of receivers in blocks of flats.

1953 05 09

The television broadcast of the Coronation ceremony will be shown to some 250 people on big screen projectors in Cambridge Guildhall. The projectors are specialised television receivers and produce a picture four feet wide. The picture quality is remarkable but much depends on the signal strength and the co-operation of motorists and other persons who cause T/V electrical interference is invited in keeping away from the vicinity of the Guildhall on Coronation morning. Seats will be allocated to pensioners, wounded ex-Servicemen and similar deserving cases. 53 05 09

1953 06 03

On Coronation Day Pye Ltd of Cambridge operated the first colour television outside broadcast ever done in this country. It was seen in a well-known Children's Hospital and several other selected places. Three colour cameras used in transmission were sited on top of Government buildings facing Parliament Square and Whitehall. Hundreds of people assembled in Cambridge Guildhall to watch the ceremony on television. The latest television screens were used. The picture was clear and precise but there was, of course, no control over the usual interference from electrical appliances which all TV owners are forced to suffer in silence. Six domestic TV sets were installed in the Corn Exchange and because of the bright light, shields were fitted around the screens c53 06 03

1953 07 07

If a vital target in Cambridge, such as the gasworks, received a direct hit during an enemy air attack, the Civil Defence Experimental Mobile Rescue Columns would swing into action. It has its own kitchen and communications system, including wireless and telephones and is equipped to deal with any emergency. It consists of 150 men split into 15 rescue parties, each having an up-to-date rescue vehicle. Their visit was only an overnight halt but many members of the public were attracted to the scene and it was obvious they had not expected to see such up-to-date equipment and quiet efficiency.

1953 07 31

All work at the Pye Factory ended early and the employees dined off sandwich instead of their customary hot meal as they crammed into the works canteen for a visit of the BBC "Workers' Playtime" broadcast. The entertainment featured the close-harmony quintet 'The Coronets', Lionel Saxon, 'genial host of the Winkle Club', who put plenty of energy into his comic impersonations & Monica Owen with her intimate songs. The broadcast ended with Beryl Reid, who was greeted with shrieks of laughter when she appeared in black stockings and green gym tunic with her handkerchief tucked away in the traditional schoolgirl place for her caricature of Monica, the awful child.

1953 08 25

While the National Radio Exhibition at Earls Court offers the best in radio and television under one roof, Cambridge's own exhibition goes on throughout the year in the windows and showrooms of the city's radio stores. Langham Radio Services of Mill Road have the Sobel 14-inch tv for 64 guineas or the Cossor 12-inch at 50 guineas. Morley & Duke offer a free demonstration in your own home of the Pye V4 television with automatic picture control which costs £64.18.0 or on H.P. at 15/- weekly.

1953 09 06

In Fallowfields 58 out of 129 houses have aerials - 45% [2.5]

1953 09 08

Pye Ltd of Cambridge are showing on their stand at the Radio Show a 27-inch direct view cathode ray television receiver with automatic picture control. It is the largest ever seen in the country and will allow at least 200 people to watch in comfort. Pye have also provided a miniature 'staticon' television camera which is being used on the Celebrity Dais, the pictures being relayed throughout the exhibition.

1953 09 15

After a road test by courtesy of Messrs King and Harper I was able to form definite ideas about the new Standard Eight. It has been built at a price of £481 to compete with the Austin A30, Morris

Minor and Ford Anglia and has been stripped of every luxury and driver's pet toy. On the standard model there are no wheel discs, the minimum of chrome plating, only one windscreen wiper and no door pockets. Optional extras are air conditioning, radio, oil bath air cleaner and roof rack.

Acceleration to 50 mph takes 25 seconds and top speed is 62 mph. It corners well and the brakes are good; I pulled up from a steady 35 mph in only a foot or so more than 30 feet. Petrol consumption is about 45 mpg for the normal touring owner.

1953 10 30

Cambridge Women heard that television would be one of the most powerful social influences in years to come and although only a minority of the ladies had sets that was no reason why they should be indifferent. The BBC had done a wonderful job over the years but sponsored television would bring the sensational, the tawdry, sex appeal and false glamour.

1953 11 17

Reach's oldest inhabitant, 84-year-old Mrs Badcock, leaned across a table in the lamplight and pulled a switch to turn on the village's electricity supply. The lights blazed and a six foot sign of red, white and blue bulbs glowed 'Welcome to E.E.B.' "This is a great day in the history of the village", Mr B. Day, chairman of the parish council, told the enthusiastic audience which packed the school to overflowing. A large number stayed to watch a television that had been installed, others went home to find their houses brightly lit by electricity and others went to the hostelries across the green to celebrate in the traditional way.

1954 01 23

Pye Ltd of Cambridge has set up the first television station on the African continent, at Casablanca. It has also received another substantial order for cameras and equipment from the Japanese public service broadcaster. During last year alone Pye delivered equipment to many countries including the U.S.A., Italy, Belgium, Norway, Germany and France and the continuing expansion of television throughout the world promises to bring even more valuable export orders.

1954 01 26

Messrs Vicom Ltd appealed for the development of Bourn aerodrome as a factory for light engineering. They were incorporated in 1951 to manufacture electronic equipment for high frequency radio for use in military aircraft. Their current contracts were for the Canadian and United States Air Forces and were of great importance. County planners say there is a danger of labour being attracted from the land in an area where it was scarce but only four of their 110 employees had ever had any connection with agriculture and a high proportion of the new employment could be female labour. The land was some of the poorest, there was a great deal of concrete on the site and it would take three years to produce anything. Bourn was a picturesque village with building sites for 77 houses and was an ideal place for the centre of employment.

1954 02 04

Pye's new underwater television camera has been rushed to Italy to aid the search for the Comet airliner which crashed into the sea. It is more sensitive and much smaller than any previous model and had at the time of the crash hardly gone beyond the drawing-board stage, many of the parts had not even been made. Within six days a casing had been built for operation at a depth of 250 feet, all the parts had been made and the camera assembled. Information was then received that the Comet was probably lying 600 feet below the surface and consequently a much stronger case of different design was required. It was completed in seven days and flown out.

1954 03 18

The proposed arrangements for an alternative television programme will not give a satisfactory signal in the Cambridge area. Multi-channel convertors now being incorporated in some makes of set may be outdated and unserviceable when the Cambridge viewer wants to use them. Our advice is to have the convertor fitted when – and only when – Cambridge comes within the range of the proposed new

stations. To buy a set with a convertor at present means paying 5-7 guineas more for what is, to the Cambridge viewer, a useless article. – H.W. Peak, Radio & Television Dept, King Street – advert.

1954 04 22

The Automobile Association has announced a scheme to direct and control A.A. Patrols and night break-down vehicles by means of a greatly extended radio network. It involves erecting transmitters at various places, including Cambridge from which a wide area of the Eastern Counties will be directed. In addition many more Patrols attending important meetings will be equipped with 'walkie-talkie' apparatus to keep them constantly in touch with Mobile Headquarters. The immense advantages of a direct radio link in dealing with abnormal traffic and car parking arrangements have been proved again and again.

1954 05 04

Cambridgeshire Police have been experimenting with a radio equipped motor cycle. The wireless equipment supplied by Pye Telecom gives the same facilities as that fitted to police cars. A patrolling motor cycle officer hears his call on the set; pulls up and then can receive his message through a loudspeaker, or alternatively through the hand microphone he uses for his own transmission. The range of the radio is sufficient to cover any part of the county. If adopted it would enable motor cycles to be used for many duties which at present require radio cars. 54 05 07

1954 08 25

The first demonstration in Britain of 3-D television attracted large crowds to the Pye Radio works stand at the Radio and T.V. Exhibition at Earls Court, London. From a miniature studio built on a raised platform in the middle of the stand 3-D television pictures were being screened on experimental sets a few feet away. The viewers had to wear polarised spectacles. Pye do not expect sets to be on sale to the public in the near future; as a home entertainment 3-D television is a very long way off yet. At the moment they are perfecting it for use in industry. CDN 25.8.1954

1954 11 01

Miller's music shop has transformed its Sidney Street Cambridge premises with an up-to-date, spacious and extremely attractive front of an entirely unique design. The windows are non-reflective and the lower ground floor, which is so popular with record lovers but previously almost completely hidden way, now has a mirrored view from the street. You can now pause in your shopping and look in the window, whether it be the television set your husband has promised the family for Christmas or one of the many different instruments on display.

1954 11 09

The Automobile Association has put into service a new radio transmitting station from their Cambridge headquarters in Hills Road which gives continuous communication with 'A.A.' patrols with a radius of 40 miles. There are six radio-controlled motor-cycle combinations together with a Land Rover to provide prompt assistance for motorists whenever a breakdown occurs on the road.

1954 11 18

A television service for East Anglia and improvements in sound broadcasting by means of Very High Frequency transmissions from a station to be built at Tacolneston, Norfolk, have been announced by the B.B.C. Television services will begin in February and will cover the greater part of Norfolk and Suffolk. The V.H.F. service will be completed by 1956. The Midland Home Service which already includes news, weather forecasts and other programmes reflecting the Norwich area will extend its range to Cambridgeshire. [2.6]

1954 11 20

Charles Woods of Cambridge has attended 500 performances at the Arts Theatre since it opened in 1936; he has also patronised the New Theatre for over 45 years and has a collection of over 1,000 programmes. Many people were not aware that in 1910 it was possible to listen-in to plays at London West-End theatres by telephone. The system was known as the 'Electrophone'. This had advantages

over the present radio as you could choose your theatre and listen to the whole evening without interruption.

1954 11 27

King's College carol service to be broadcast on tv [2.8]

1954 12 28 c

The Mayor of Saffron Walden made a public 'draw' for tickets for the Wilfred Pickles' "Have a Go" radio show. Fifty people sat and shivered in the Corn Exchange; the wind blew and frequent bursts of rain through the roof damped the clothes if not the spirits of those who sat waiting expectantly. The BBC had issued 300 tickets for the Town Hall and 200 for the Corn Exchange and the best thing was to draw for them. Lists of successful applicants will be displayed outside the Town Hall and the town office of the CDN

1955 01 05

Wilfred Pickles' "Have a Go" radio programme was broadcast from Papworth when he probed into the private lives of six of the inhabitants of the Settlement. It was the first time the programme had visited a tuberculosis centre and the most memorable interview was with the Matron, Miss Robinson, who told of her work; her great sincerity and understanding must have impressed many people. Also on the programme were Jackie Hobbs, John Mead, Joseph French the transport manager, David Wilkie and Charles Benstead who had been in the Settlement 26 years to the day. He won the jackpot of £2 15s.5d. and a Papworth pullet.

1955 02

TV service from Norwich starts, (up to full power 1957) [2.6]

1955 02 14

The most 'revolutionary' and up-to-date coach in Cambridge was given its first official run. The new coach is owned by Progressive Coaches. Everything is done for passenger comfort. 'Sorbo' rubber seats have special headrests, two heaters supply warm air and radio loudspeakers are fitted along the roof. Fully-laden it travels for over 20 miles on one gallon of diesel oil as it has a two-speed electrical rear action gear device. At the flick of a switch the automatic overdrive comes into operation, reducing gear changing and wear and tear. Mr 'Paddy' Harris hopes to have a fleet of these outstanding vehicles. 55 02 14

1955 03 04

Messrs Burtons of High Street Huntingdon applied for an off-licence in respect of wines and spirits. The branch had existed for over 50 years and because of the increasing popularity of television people spend more time at home leading to a greater demand for wines and spirits in the house. The wages of workers have increased quite a lot and they are now in a position to have the odd bottle of wine – perhaps for medicinal purposes or for a birthday. They look to their grocer to supply it on the few occasions during the year when they need it. But it was opposed by Messrs Hunter and Oliver who had an off-licence: usually when a person wanted a bottle of wine they would telephone or write a letter and it would be delivered. 55 03 04a

1955 04 13

Police Sergeant Harold Holden was on the Cambridge traffic patrol when it first started and was in charge until wireless was introduced into police vehicles. In 1946 he passed the 1st Class Police Driver's Test and has been instructing and examining police drivers. Now on his retirement he will run his own Driving School using a Ford Anglia with dual controls. His mother was one of the first women to hold a driving licence in 1908 and taught driving during the First World War. 55 04 13

1955 04 16

Following a six-week run at London's Windmill Theatre, Mr Len Tibbs of Cherryhinton Road, is to make his first television appearance. He is a very popular pianist and concert arranger but will appear

in the role of comedian in 'Show Case', a most popular show for artists who have not previously appeared on tv. Cambridge audiences who have long laughed with this clever and perceptive comedian will wish him luck and will be in front of their screens when he steps before the camera. 55 04 16

1955 05 03

Soham's new County Fire Station opened in Fountain Lane. When the County Council took over fire services in 1948 the resources were lamentable. They decided that the rural district must be served first and so had erected the first new fire station there. With this up-to-the-minute building goes a modern type of water tender equipped with a short-wave radio and a device for control of fires in standing crops. The old appliance did not carry any water at all. 55 05 03b

1955 05 11

The Arts Theatre unveiled an extension to its Roof Garden restaurant, decorated in gay modern style and complete with the latest Espresso Coffee equipment. Some regretted the reduction of the outdoor terrace space but with the fickle English climate the new area would prove an agreeable amenity both for meals and during theatre intervals. Losses in the theatre could only be made up by profits from the Cinema, scenery studio and catering activities. Once the novelty of television had worn off an increasing number of people would again seek the solid satisfaction of live performances. 55 05 11

1955 07 12

Just as hundreds of Cambridge office workers were about to leave for home down came the rain in one of the most unusual thunderstorms. Only parts of the city were affected, in others there was mild drizzle. At Coton lightning struck a transformer under which an eight-year-old lad had been playing, close by a television aerial was struck and split to pieces setting the tv on fire and a Comberton the chimney stack of a house was struck, causing serious damage to the roof. 55 07 12

1955 08 20

Pye has produced a radio clock. It incorporates an electric alarm clock with a 5-amp socket so that either an electric fire or a tea maker can be set for the same time as the alarm, which switches on the radio automatically. It operates on the medium waveband with one pre-set long wave station and has a 'sleep switch' to enable it to be turned off automatically when the owner falls asleep 55 08 20b

1955 09 02

In opening their enormous new showrooms in King Street Cambridge the firm of H.W. Peak have passed another milestone. Everything for furnishing a home is here in astonishing array. Apart from furniture there is electrical equipment such as vacuum cleaners and washing machines together with televisions and Hi-Fi sound equipment. They started just under 50 years ago selling second-hand furniture and opened a large branch at King's Lynn in 1937. 55 09 02b

1956 02 11

Pye's new television camera is the first of its kind anywhere. It's designed to see inside a nuclear reactor and much ingenuity has gone into its manufacture. The camera will not become radio-active, but the dust it collects from the inside of the pile will be dangerous so it will be washed with detergent after use. 56 02 11b

1956 03 24

Miller's Music Shop began a 100 years ago when Mr A.T. Miller opened a workshop in Hobson Street as an organ builder and piano repairer. The family home was above his wife's millinery shop in Sidney Street and one of the rooms was opened as a pianoforte showroom. His son introduced the sale of instruments and sheet music and later came harmoniums, gramophones, radio and television and now electronic organs and tape recorders. 56 03 24d

1956 04 05

Bridge Street is usually one of the most congested points in Cambridge but even the pavement suffered from overcrowding when pedestrians stopped to look at a television camera which had appeared in King and Harper's showrooms. The firm has arranged demonstrations of domestic appliances and for the first time Pye industrial television equipment, operating on a closed circuit, is being used to relay them to other audiences. Everybody is assured of a clear view of what is going on.
56 04 05

1956 04 06

Maisons-Laffitte schoolchildren who have been spending 12 days in Newmarket found a BBC recording unit waiting to tape their views on their stay. It was a fitting climax to a grand holiday and will be broadcast on 'Radio Newsreel'. The most memorable event was a party arranged in the Memorial Hall when 350 French, English and American children joined in games. It was one of the best parties that Newmarket has seen for a long time – and one of the noisiest! 56 04 06a

1956 04 16

Is the old-style village hall dying? Many say the coming of Village Colleges is sounding their death-knell and television has reduced attendances. But you watch tv in the dark and people think the village college rather snobbish and are afraid to go there. If the youth are moving to the big towns for their entertainment this did not matter, for the really important people in the village are the young married who cannot get away so easily and they need a cheerful place to go to. 56 04 16

1956 05 16

Is the installation of television in a public house beneficial to the licensee or appreciated by customers? It may attract people to the pub when there is a big sporting programme but has not much use generally. Mr Ecclestone told Licensed Victuallers: "It is a menace and a curse of the 20th-century". It ruined the atmosphere and took the place of conversation There should be notices outside pubs saying 'No television here, we are civilised'. 56 05 16b & c

1956 06 15

Residents of Hale Street, Cambridge, petitioned against the large numbers of cars parked in the street every evening, sometimes bumper to bumper along both sides of the road. Their evening television entertainment has been ruined by continual interference from the vehicles and children woken up late at night by revving car engines and slamming doors. An elderly lady in a corner house recently had a bedroom ceiling fall down. She claims excessive vibration from the cars helped it to collapse. 56 06 15

1956 06 29

Special precautions were taken by the BBC to avoid disturbance from the League of Empire Loyalists when 'Commonwealth Town Forum' was broadcast from Cambridge Guildhall. Four stewards and a plain-clothed detective stood by for possible annoyance and a special microphone was ready to cut out audience noises. But the only trouble was a small outburst from obvious members of the party which passed almost un-noticed. 56 06 29a

1956 07 06

A Lyndome twin caravan has been specially designed for Gamlingay County School. When joined together on site it will have a main staff room in one half and a private room and kitchenette in the other. BBC Television visited the school to record the opening of a new play corner and paddling pool created on a rubbish heap by headmaster J.T. Robinson and the woodwork master, Mr N. Freeman. It will be shown on Children's newsreel. 56 07 06b. 56 07 11

1956 08 18

Rev R.L. Hale became vicar of Longstanton in 1950 where in addition to his spiritual duties he took a great interest in young people's activities and two years ago conducted a service which was broadcast from All Saint's church. He has been officiating Church of England chaplain to RAF Oakington

where in an unobtrusive way he made his presence felt at ceremonial services, passing-out parades and prayers. Now he is leaving for a large housing estate at Sheffield. 56 08 18

1956 08 23

Cambridge has 18,336 television licence holders but there may well be 360 sudden new applications in the next few weeks with the arrival of the Television Detector Van. It makes no attempt to hide its purpose, there are three loop aerials on the roof and it contains an operator who listens in to detector equipment that can pinpoint the precise house in a row where a set is being used. People can be fined up to £10 and their sets may be forfeited. 56 08 23b [2.8]

1956 09 21

High-ranking Service officials, including some from Russia, went for a 20-minute helicopter ride over Cambridge without moving from the comfortable dining rooms of the University Arms Hotel. They watched one of the first-ever air to ground television transmissions carried out by Pye Radio from a Bristol Sycamore. The pictures were broadcast to several 21 inch screens and showed the view from 1,100 ft before zooming down to catch an express train just leaving the station. 56 09 21

1956 12 01

New equipment developed by Pye of Cambridge means that six times as many people can use radio communications and foreshadows immense developments. Telephones for the use of the travelling public in aeroplanes, railways and road services are now a possibility and a radio-telephone could become a standard fitting in all road vehicles, C.O. Stanley predicted. 56 12 01b

1957 02 22

The long association of Pye and King and Harper of Cambridge will be celebrated in a 'Pye Parade' exhibition at Harper's Bridge Street premises. The highlight will be a specially-erected television studio and each evening programmes of local interest will be transmitted. The shows can be viewed on receivers in many parts of the premises with a limited number of seats in the studio itself 57 02 22, 57 02 27b

1957 03 13

Cameras film Cambridge from rooftops – photo – 57 03 13

1957 04 02

Television sets are to be installed at Chesterton Secondary Modern School in an experiment to assess the value of this type of visual aid. In the years to come they may be as common as radios. However Coun Gardner-Smith claimed children spent a lot of time watching television: "Is it any wonder they are illiterate. This is simply another way of wasting time". 57 04 02a

1957 04 04

Jimmy Edwards, complete with the famous moustache, performed the opening of Herbert Robinson's new garage at Newmarket Road. 'A few jocularities and not all of them in good taste' was how he introduced his remarks, observing somewhat ruefully that with the rate of present development the new premises might eventually be quite near Cambridge. After the inevitable disparaging comments about his radio colleague, Dick Bentley, he commented on the number of cars now fitted with radio – 'a good sign we will not be thrown out of work'. 57 04 04

1957 08 03

The Eastern Electricity Board has installed V.H.F. Radio control in its mobile vehicles which range from heavy field vehicles to vans used by electricians engaged in house repairs. One lady from Bassingbourn telephoned to report a fault but before she put the receiver down the electrician was knocking on the door! The main transmitters run night and day allowing communication between vehicles and there is a portable transmitter that can be taken home by the controlling engineer in case of an emergency during the night. 57 08 03a

1957 08 09

Cambridge residents watched a short aerobatics display and heard a radio commentary by the pilot of the aircraft at the same time. It was the first such broadcast. The commentator was Raymond Baxter, the aircraft a Tiger Moth of the Cambridge Private Flying Group. This was formed in 1953 to bring private flying within the reach of the man in the street. One of the lady members, Betty Willink, hopes to qualify for her Private Pilot's licence soon. 57 08 09

1957 08 23

Mary and Jennifer Copleston have returned from Moscow to Cambridge after two hectic weeks at the World Youth Festival. They enjoyed free tickets for the Bolshoi ballet and said the food was good with caviar and smoked salmon for breakfast. "Russian women were mostly wearing cotton skirts and dull sorts of blouses; they questioned us about our clothes and shoes and were deeply attracted by our skiffle groups and jazz bands. Homes were very small and crowded, but they had television", they report. 57 08 23a

1957 08 31

The landlord of the Green Man in Trumpington is Charlie Shadwell, the well-known conductor of the BBC Variety Orchestra which has made over 11,000 radio broadcasts, many of them in the 'Itma' series that were so popular during the war years. He also conducted the Cambridge New Theatre orchestra during 1930. He makes regular trips to London to arrange music for the BBC television shows. 57 08 31 & a

1957 09 18

I had always thought of old peoples' homes being sad places where equally sad old people spend the end of their life. But Primrose Croft stands in a lovely garden filled with flowers backing onto school playing fields. Each of the 35 residents has an airy room with attractive curtains and a lock-up cupboard. The women were busy doing knitting and crocheting, the wireless in the lounge is also enjoyed and the matron hopes one day to afford a television set. 57 09 18

1957 09 19

Cambridge scientists are perfecting a new instrument at the University Observatory which will help in the study of sun 'spots' and 'flares'. Housed in a special 100-foot long building, the Magneotgraph is the most advanced in Europe, capable of detecting solar electrical and magnetic impulses which play havoc with radio and television communications. 57 09 19

1957 12 18

Listeners to the BBC "Women's Hour" heard Doris Foster, of Occupation Road, talking about her job as radio receptionist at a Cambridge taxi firm. She handles hundreds of calls a day with fantastic speed and ease. Most drivers memorise landmarks such as pillar boxes but one knows practically every street, the position of each house and can go straight to any number in the pitch dark. 57 12 18a

1958 01 22

During 1940 Glyn Daniel, the Cambridge University archaeologist and internationally famous television personality, lived a 'nightmare existence'. As a photographic interpreter he viewed pictures from photo-reconnaissance Spitfires and Mosquitoes showing hundreds of German war barges being readied to invade England. Another was Miss Constance Babbington Smith of Newnham who is to publish a book telling the full story. 58 01 22a

1958 03 18

Police radio messages – 58 03 18

1958 04 09

The Independent Television Authority has received approval for the erection of a television station at Mendlesham, near Stowmarket. A directional transmitting aerial will beam the maximum power in a north-westerly direction and will reach practically the whole of the area out to Peterborough, bringing

Cambridge and King's Lynn into the reception area. They hope to have it open in the autumn of 1959.
58 04 09

1958 07 15

The work of the Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory – where the Sputnik signals were tracked – is to appear on television films in three countries. Television experts saw the radio telescopes which move on rails and visited the small bungalow that houses the receiving instruments on which it is possible to hear sounds generated 3,000,000,000 years ago by radio transmissions on distant stars.
58 07 15a

1958 07 16

Linton Hospital was formerly a workhouse but it is amazing what can be done to brighten such a place. Masses of vivid flowers in the garden detract from the austere front and the high walls separating each of the four quadrangles have been taken down to knee level. The corridors are decorated in gay colours with bright chintz curtains and the small paned windows are being replaced by large airy ones. The one-time long dormitories have been split up, where possible, into bedrooms. There are televisions and bright bedspreads and residents seem happy and contented. 58 07 16

1958 09 24

More than 200 people crowded into the WI Hall when the BBC's "Have a Go" programme was broadcast live from Ely. Wilfred Pickles met contestants including Clifford Cousins, Raymond Bailey, William Rayment, Mrs Florence Oakey and Colonel J.G.A. Beckett, chairman of Ely Urban District Council. 58 09 24a

1958 11 13

The BBC have opened a new sound broadcasting studio in Cambridge to give better coverage to the city, University and county and transmit programmes with more local appeal. The studio, which is 'unattended' – there is no resident engineer – occupies part of the ADC Theatre buildings. It can be operated by BBC staff-men and other broadcasters without any technical wireless knowledge. All they have to do to broadcast is press a switch to be in contact with the BBC's engineers in Birmingham. 58 11 13 [3.1]

1958 12 19

The villagers of Cowlinge received a much appreciated Christmas present when Council chairman Clifford Colson pushed a button to inaugurate the electricity supply and his daughter Jane extinguished two lighted candles – which represented the primitive lighting of the past. Forty housewives were at the village hall to see the 'switch-on' and view an exhibition of cookers, heaters and washing machines. Some already have TV sets and look forward to watching programmes for the first time. 58 12 19

1958 12 29

On Boxing Day the Mayor visited Fulbourn Hospital where he gave the traditional 'kick-off' in the football match between patients and staff. The wards had been decorated with loving care while in the sick bay the nurses had painted some beautiful Christmas scenes on the walls. Many of the wards were filled with exotic fruits and flowers made out of paper, some by the Sisters in their spare time and others with the help of patients. Television now plays a large part in the life of the wards and viewing and singing carols took up much of the holiday. 58 12 29

1959

Anglia tv opens highest mast in Europe, at Mendlesham [2.9]

1959 01 13

The unashamedly BBC TV programme 'This is Your Life' had a particular interest last night for many local people. It was about a man described by Eamonn Andrews as 'a living legend to thousands of people', Canon Noel Duckworth, padre to the Cambridgeshire Regiment on the outbreak

of war. First to pay tribute was former CND cartoonist, Ronald Searle who recalled seeing him when the Regiment was retreating from the Japanese in Malaya: he was pushing a wheelbarrow full of beer to the troops in the front line. They later met as prisoners in Changi gaol. 59 01 13e

1959 07 17

Papworth Hospital radio & radio telephones courtesy CDN appeal – 59 07 17

1959 09 12

Pye, the Cambridge television and radio firm, have helped to relieve the discomfort of a patient in Griffith Ward, Addenbrooke's Hospital, who is forced through illness to lie on his back for an indefinite period. They have loaned the hospital a television set which has been mounted on a high metal frame to enable him to view with ease. 59 09 12b

1959 10 02

Many teenage girls feel they should be engaged by the time they are 18, otherwise she is quite obviously 'on the shelf'. However Grammar School girls consider 25 quite early enough – giving them time to attend university and work in their chosen careers. But more than half want large families of four or more children. Practically all list swimming and tennis amongst their regular pastimes and 75 percent attend church each week. Television is rarely watched except when there is a good play on. Pocket money is around five shillings and is spent on sweets, stamps, nylons and make-up. 59 10 02

1959 10 28

Thousands of new Anglia Television viewers are unaware that almost every piece of equipment that goes into the transmitting of the programmes was built in the Cambridge factories of Pye Limited. The Norwich studios are equipped with their cameras and control gear and 'remote' programmes use Pye mobile outside broadcast units. This is the latest version of the most successful unit ever produced and over 50 have been sold to television networks all over the world. 59 10 28b

1959 11 06

Did you ever build a television station, or a radio-telephone, or equipment for an atomic reactor? And have you ever been involved in helping ships at sea, providing entertainment for the home – or bouncing speech off the moon? Thousands of people who live in East Anglia are doing this sort of thing every day at W.G. Pye. It is one of 60 companies which make up the Pye Group whose name is respected all over the world for achievements in radio, television, telecommunications, nucleonics and electronics generally. 59 11 06c & d

1959 12 03

A monitor screen at the back of the church, shirt-sleeved technicians tip-toeing around, cameras rolling silently up and down the aisle and bright glaring lights pointing in every direction. This was just a part of what was involved in the telerecording of a Christmas service in Gt St Mary's church. It is to be shown by Anglia Television on Christmas night. The service was intended as a corporate act of worship for overseas students in Cambridge and a reminder of how the nations of the world might live together 59 12 03b & c

1959 12 05

The Westminster Bank in Manchester has introduced the first permanent inter-branch television network. Customers can check their accounts on private television screens which relay pictures from a centralised book-keeping department a mile away. The system has been supplied by the Pye Industrial Television Division and features a small camera which looks downwards, by means of a mirror, at cheques placed on a desk. It incorporates a sound system so the operator can hold instant two-way conversations with the customer. 59 12 05a

1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has detailed newspaper cuttings files from this date

1960 06 13

Pye engineers envisage vastly improved overseas telecommunications by the use of space satellites and the moon, complete newspapers transmitted during the night through existing television sets and the establishment of more than 100 local broadcasting stations. Active relay equipment to be carried in a space vehicle is practicable now. Their design requires a single valve operated from solar cells and could be easily launched by the Blue Streak missile. It would bring undreamed-of improvements in world-wide communications, J.R. Brinkley of Pye Telecommunications told a conference. 60 06 13

1960 08 04

Pye Telecommunications scientists are considering sending satellites into outer space so that high frequency radio waves can be 'bounced' off them and make television transmissions between England and America an everyday occurrence. It would enable clear messages to be sent to any part of the world without long-range interference. A number of civilised countries had no effective methods of communicating with one another and the radio-telephone system would cut costs, W.K. Stevenson told businessmen 60 08 04b

1960 08 25

The credit squeeze is a serious attack on industry, C.O. Stanley, chairman of Pye Ltd told the annual meeting. The sales of TV sets are down which must affect profits. But when the electronics side of the business was established 12 years ago they had little idea how successful it would be.

Communications makes possible bouncing messages off the moon and the devilish weapons of the future can be controlled only by electronics. Shareholders were then taken on nation-wide tour of the company's factories by closed-circuit T.V. 60 08 25

1960 10 14

The first full-size completely portable television is made by Pye of Cambridge. It has a 14-inch screen, covers all the usual BBC & ITA channels and includes a built-in aerial. It can be operated entirely from a built-in battery or connected to a car-battery system. It uses super modern transistors which are spreading rapidly through the development laboratories and production lines. One day there may be 'all-round' tv sets in 3D and colour, the company predicts 60 10 14a

1960 12 16

Cambridge Relayed Television Service comprises 24 television dealers who may combine with Multisignals Ltd to allow viewers to pay a rental for the use of a telephone cable to bring programmes to the house, saving the cost of putting an aerial on the chimney. People can continue to buy, hire or hire-purchase ordinary televisions but by fitting an adaptor to a single-channel set they will also be able to receive London and Anglia ITV. Cable also has provision for the future transmission of colour signals or 625-line broadcasts. 60 12 16d e f

1961 01 02

The warehouses of Radio and Television Services Ltd, Gloucester Street, were gutted by fire. Scores of people living nearby went into their gardens as showers of sparks and splinters from exploding radio valves and television tubes showered down on their premises and residents of Clare Street used garden hoses to prevent the fire endangering their garden sheds. Arthur Brett (80) said the blaze and noise was just like the battle of the Somme. Employees will be moved to other buildings in the Pye group and there will be no serious interruption in the repair and servicing facilities operated by the company. The two-storey high building also houses a technical school for overseas radio experts. 61 01 02c

1961 01 13

Pye T.V.T. has helped Leeds Transport Department to introduce a new system of closed-circuit television to watch bus queues and traffic in crowded streets. Three small cameras mounted on police

at City Square Briggate and the Corn Exchange send pictures via a special underground cable to separate screens in the control room at transport headquarters. Here operators can turn each camera to see how many people are queuing at each stop and direct buses accordingly. The Pye system is to help in a survey of Leeds traffic problems during the next two years – 61 01 13

1961 04 07

At the Lister works in Abbey Road they like to take on smaller, unique, prototype jobs. Men were making parts for the Emeryson racing car, parts to go into the focussing mechanism of television cameras and gear-rings of enormous diameter for some special task which would have required too much disruption for a great factory to undertake. Elsewhere others were making a mysterious stainless steel tent for one of the University laboratories while in the drawing office a draughtsman was working out production details for a machine which nuns will use to cut and bake the very thin altar-breads for the Catholic Mass. 61 04 07d

1961 05 23

Addenbrooke's Hospital broadcasts tape-recorded services – 61 05 23b

1961 06 21

Pye develop cheap tv station – one-third previous price [1.1]

1961 07 24

Police are trying to trace a well-equipped team of safe-blowers who broke into the Swiss Laundry premises in Cherryhinton Road. They were foiled by Policewoman Muriel Latham who heard bumps in the night as she returned from a late duty and telephoned her headquarters. But the gang had a portable radio tuned into the police wavelength and escaped through a window, leaving sticks of gelignite, a jemmy and a toy balloon filled with acid. 61 07 24

1961 08 14

Fire swept through a warehouse and store room at the Radio and Television Service's factory in Gloucester Street. It was the second fire the firm has suffered at these premises this year, and the third to cause serious damage to the company's workshops in eight months. On New Years Day the factory was badly damaged and rebuilding work is not yet complete. Then three weeks ago their paint spraying shops at Sawston were gutted. Detectives spent the weekend probing the cause which was identified as an electrical failure 61 08 14

1961 08 21

The Earls Court Radio Show features two 'smallest-ever Pye Pocketable' sets whose transistors and printed circuits make them smart travelling companions. One has a black morocco leather case, the other moulded plastic. They cover Long and Medium wavebands and have a two-inch loudspeaker. The Pye TV range are designed to be easily convertible to 625 lines and include 'Transista TVs' with 23 inch square tubes bringing added realism to television. 61 08 21

1962 04 04

Addenbrooke's Hospital to install two-way closed circuit television between Operating Theatre and X-Ray department – 62 04 04

1962 08 28

Piped television begins in Cambridge on Saturday when 30 Arbury Estate subscribers tune in to receive three television and four radio programmes via a 170 ft mast in King's Hedges Road. The British Wireless Relay Company says the cost of laying a complete underground network was prohibitive but wherever possible the cables were being put in the least conspicuous places. People can hire sets for between 7s6d and 13s a week 62 08 28 [3.4, 2.10]

1962 09 07

Cambridge now has British Relay wired television which is all ready for 625-line viewing of the new programmes and colour when it comes. It cuts out aerials and gives the crispest pictures without knob twiddling receiving the current BBC, London ITV and Anglia TV programmes, plus all BBC Home, Light and Third radio programmes and popular Radio Luxembourg. . Your own television set can receive Relay TV by means of the 'Relaydapter' which simply plugs into the aerial socket.

Advertisement – 62 09 07c

1962 09 08

A familiar landmark of the Cambridge skyline is being taken down. The Pye mast was built at the start of the war to help them develop defence systems and also broadcast very low power experimental television programmes. It was originally 185 feet tall but extra aerials were added. At the top is a small cabin used to house experimental equipment and large enough for a man to work in. The mast will be replaced with a later type suitable for newest television techniques. 62 09 08a

1962 09 26

Mrs C. Clark has been secretary of the Cambridgeshire Society for the Blind for 15 years. She supervises two homes for the blind in Cambridge as well as the blind workers' shop in Regent Street. But there is more: she deals with the loan of wireless sets – there are more than 250 at present, visits blind people in need of help and arranges parties or outings. There is a 'talking books' system and two blind undergraduates who had difficulty in finding textbooks were grateful to the people who read the information to them. Volunteers are needed to take people out for walks or help with teas at the weekend when the domestic staff are off-duty. 62 09 26

1962 10 31

St Mary's Lodge and Isle of Ely County Council Care Home was established nine years ago at no.44 St Mary's Street Ely to accommodate 24 elderly men and women. It expanded into the adjoining building in 1959 and now both are being linked to form one complete unit housing 44. The home offers well-furnished bedrooms, comfortable sitting rooms and lounges fitted with wireless and television 62 10 31

1962 12 01

C.O. Stanley, head of Pye, warned of redundancy in the tv industry unless people bought 625-line sets. 62 12 01b

1962 12 14

Mr E.J. Wesley Coe was a glass-blower for one of the University laboratories who practiced his craft at home, making quaint little animals and glass pipettes for artificial insemination. In 1952 he formed his own company making electronic valve components for the radio industry and apparatus for the semi-conductor field. Soon he was employing a dozen people and now supplies the needs of the most recent Nobel prize-winners, the Admiralty, Air Ministry, atomic energy and radio industry at home and abroad 62 12 14a

1963 02 22

BBC engineers have been carrying out tests to find a suitable site for a relay booster television station in Cambridge. It follows a petition signed by 5,000 viewers that was organised by the Cambridge Radio and Television Retailers Association. The tests on Stourbridge Common involve the use of a barrage balloon which lifts a transmitting aerial to different heights. The signal is picked up by a mobile control room which travels around Cambridge testing reception in different areas – 63 02 22a

1963 05 22

Plans by the Pye Group to tour the country with their new mobile 625-line television transmitter and studio have been blocked by the Post Office who says they do not have a licence. It was launched in Cambridge when the Mayor, Ald Hickson, became the first public figure to appear on the system. The

whole of the television industry has been devoted to the development of the new equipment which was featured at the last Radio Show. Pye has called for the ban to be immediately reversed 63 05 22

1963 07 24

Princess Margaret and the Earl of Snowdon came to Cambridge to watch television cameras and electronic equipment being made at the Pye factory, St Andrews Road. A small industrial closed circuit television camera was trained on them when Lord Snowdon asked to have a go. The Princess then focussed it on a group of press photographers. A great burst of cheering went up when Lord Snowdon went over to attractive Mrs Jean Keeble who was working on a television assembly line. "I was absolutely thrilled", she said. Later they took a voyage on the Cam on Viscountess Bury 63 07 24 & a

1963 09 25

The Pye 625 mobile television test station which was closed by the Post Office in May, is to start broadcasting again. Agreement has been reached with the G.P.O. over a broadcasting licence for the station which will start a tour of the Midlands. The station, which was first publicly shown at Cambridge, will transmit pictures and captions together with commentaries to inform the public about 625-line television. 63 09 05

1963 10 05

A series of television lectures will be given by members of Cambridge University in a programme called 'Dawn University'. They will be transmitted at 7 a.m. over the whole of the ITV network to demonstrate the usefulness of television as a teaching medium. It is the first time such programmes have appeared so early and it is impossible to say how many people will get up early to watch them. There will also be two-way lectures between Cambridge and the new University of East Anglia at Norwich and a closed-circuit link with scientists at Imperial College, London. 63 10 05

1964 03 09

'Dawn University' tv experiment review – 64 03 09a

1964 04 24

Cambridge library service must be aware of the increasing opportunities the future is likely to bring, say City Librarian, Eric Cave. They had issued over half-a-million books for the first time in its history but there can be no complacency over the increasing usage of the libraries. The coming of Anglia television had slowed demand for books. There has been a steady increase in the number of readers using the reference library. But the number of staff changes has been too great to make the provision of a smoothly-running service possible; young trainees move on to other libraries, attracted by better working hours and higher pay 64 04 24f

1964 07 08

Councillor Jean Barker, wife of the headmaster of the Leys, believes television is partially to blame for the unruly behaviour of some teenagers. "They come home from work to find their parents glued to the television and get so bored that they just drift out again onto the street corners", she contends. But at boarding schools evenings are filled with a great variety of social activities. However day schools are more suitable for girls as home life is important and boarding schools can be de-feminising. Her ambition is to open a first-class 'frightfully expensive but frightfully good' restaurant in Cambridge – possibly in a boat house 64 07 08

1964 09 30

Television booster station to be top of gas works – 64 09 30

1964 11 13

Eastern Electricity's new Fens Sub-Area control room knocks spots off the old system used at Thompson's Lane. A huge panel displays the entire electrical network while control desks have radio communications and lists of emergency engineering staff who can be called out. There is a standby

generator which starts automatically should the main power fails. All this is the work of Pye Ltd. There is not a second when it is left empty. But it is unlikely that full-scale automation will ever be introduced. 64 11 13

1965 02 08

The world's largest and most advanced amateur television station is based in Jeremy Royle's home at Duddenhoe End and he puts out a regular transmission each evening. Another station is owned by Douglas Wiles of Mill Road whose equipment and home-made camera is fitted into his living room. Both are members of the Cambridge Amateur Radio Club and the audience consists of about half-a-dozen people who can switch on their transmitter and chat to the figure on the screen. The availability of cheap war surplus material gave amateur radio and television a boost in the post-war years but today the supplies have died away 65 02 08c

1965 03 11

Ward's move to new premises in Burleigh Street marks another stage in the long history of a firm which started when Jonas Ward made a living mending bicycles in East Road. For some time they made the famous Crown cycles, one of which was ridden from Cambridge to Monte Carlo in 1930. They also supplied carrier cycles and box tricycles. Later they diversified into wireless, gramophones, washing machines and baby carriages and became one of the first to stock televisions in 1938. – 65 03 11a, b

1965 04 22

King & Harper to relinquish radio & television interests; went into television from its outset and were original Pye agents in Cambridge – 65 04 22b

1965 05 14

A Cambridge electronic engineer says his research work into colour television has been set back by six months after highly secret plans were stolen. A specialist gang got into the Golden Rule Laboratory at a converted public house, the Seven Stars in Litlington, and went straight for the files. They also took another device to enable the blind to see electronically. Edward Jaggers has warned his agents in Paris and Geneva about the raid. 65 05 14

1965 06 30

BBC producing film showing residents in Cambridge to be broadcast on Channel Five transmitters not visible in Cambridge – 65 06 30

1965 10 14

Pye not to spend large sums on colour television until Government reach decision on future – 65 10 14a

1965 10 22

Edward Milner plans a library of recordings of music, intellectual and sports material featuring Cambridge – 65 10 22b

1966 02 21

Radio & Telephone Service Ltd employs 50 girls sending invoices – 66 02 21b

1966 03 04

Colour tv services put back at year – 66 03 04a

1966 04 04

Pye incur large losses in radio and television side of group – 66 04 04

1966 06 10

Pirate radio station may go on air as May-Week stunt – 66 06 10

1966 08 22

Sinclair Radionics mini-tv shown at Television and Radio Show at Earl's Court – 66 08 22

1966 09 07

Pye pocket radio-telephone exhibited – 66 09 07

1966 12 20

Cambridge could be chosen as one of nine sites for experimental local radio service by BBC – 66 12 20

1967 01 14

Sinclair Radionics HQ in Cambridge established year ago, make miniature TVs - 67 01 14

1967 03 10

Cambridge does not want to be considered for local radio station yet – 67 03 10a

1969 02 22

Local radio discussion [3.6]

1969 09 10

1st class colour reception now on BBC 2 (only)

1971 02 19

Cambridge Free Radio off air after being hunted down by Post Office engineers – had been broadcasting over a 25-mile radius from Histon – 71 02 19a

1971 02 26

Community radio concept for city: Brian Jackson of Advisory Centre for Education has developed a proposals for new form of broadcasting; Enid Porter would speak on fen customs – 71 02 26b

1971 03 22

Colour television on all three channels with opening of Sandy Heath transmitter 1971 [3.9]

1971 04 23

Commercial radio: culture or canned music – feature – 71 04 23

1971 04 29

Commercial radio discussed [3.10]

1972 03 10

CEN owners will tender for licences local radio [3.11]

1972 03 15

A group of educationalists today unveiled detailed proposals for a community radio in Cambridge. If the trust get a licence they will cover everything from university talks to darts matches. They make it clear that they do not want a station which resorts to excessive pop music, peak listening periods would be devoted to local news, light entertainment and pop music. From 5pm to 6.30 pm there would be a children's programme followed by news. The late night slot from 11pm to 1 am would be aimed at the University age group with a programme on the lines of the old television favourite "That was the week that was" 72 03 15

1972 07 10

A pirate radio station operating from a Cambridge council house was pounced on by GPO officials and police yesterday. They took away a transmitter and a cassette recorder. The raid on the house

came exactly six minutes after the illegal radio station – calling itself Radio Caroline - started its regular Sunday lunchtime pirate broadcast. For more than a year GPO engineers have been trying to track down the wavelength and whereabouts of the radio and using detector vehicles they closed in on the Cherry Hinton area. The station had been broadcasting fairly regularly each Sunday for almost 18 months

1972 07 21

Mid-Anglia police were very happy with their new Volvo patrol cars - until they found that using their VHF radio cut the car's speed by about 15 miles an hour. Drivers doing 50 m.p.h. found that when they made a radio call their speed dropped to 35 m.p.h. – alarming for them and for anyone travelling behind. The Volvos bought on the insistence of the Chief Constable in the face of opposition by some members of the police authority came into service earlier this year. They have a special computerised fuel injection system, and when drivers made radio calls the VHF signal sent the computer haywire. The result was that the engine was starved of petrol supply and the car quickly slowed down. But the mystery fault has been cured - by a mechanic from Sweden and a roll of baking foil.

1973 01 17

Cambridge Community Broadcasting Company set up [3.13]

1973 03 06

One of the largest single orders - £2.1 million - ever placed to a Pye group company has been won by Pye TTV Ltd of Coldham's Lane, Cambridge, to supply colour television equipment to the government of South Korea. Many Far East observers believe that Korea could be expanding industrially to the point where it could become another Japan so the long-term prospects for business there seem very good. The contract is for a full colour television installation for the national broadcasting system. TTV will supply four colour television studios, a monochrome studio, colour and monochrome cameras, mobile studios, a master control and associated equipment. It also covers the training of Korean engineers

1973 07 19

Ely last night won the fourth European heat of the television "It's a Knockout" competition. The ancient cathedral city of Arnhem erupted with English roars and cheers as they scraped home by just three points. The team and their 100 supporters ran riot over the market place. The chairman of the urban council, Coun. Stanley Cornwell, kissed every woman in sight. Later there were all-night parties for the Ely invasion force. The team are now almost certain to go to the final in Paris

1973 07 25

A commercial radio consortium backed by three of the largest firms in Cambridge are asking other city organisations to join them in making plans for local broadcasting. The group have the support of Cambridge Newspapers ltd, the Pye group and Marshall of Cambridge. They represent the first major opposition to the Cambridge Community Broadcasting Company - a consortium set up several years ago by Mr Brian Jackson of the city-based Advisory Centre for Education. It may be almost 1980 before there is any chance of Cambridge getting a commercial station 73 07 25

1973 08 14

Just how important is one product in the range of a group which has 40 companies turning out a whole range of products? The answer for Pye - when it comes to colour television - is very important. For continuing good sales of colour television is one of the main reasons for the group's record sales and profits in the first six months of this year. The chairman, Lord Thorneycroft forecasts continued high sales: "I think the actual rush is over but with the Royal wedding coming along in November and the World Cup series next year there is no knowing where it is going to end". The sales of the group rose 29% to £84 million

1973 09 13

Eighteen Ely people won international fame for their home town when they battled their way through a crazy obstacle course in a game which is being watched by 150 million television viewers. Ely became the Knock Out kings of Europe by a mere two points. With defeat staring them in the face they staged a storming finish to wrest the crown from six other countries in Paris. Many Fenlanders were openly weeping or walking around the arena in a daze as they realised they had achieved a dream which started more than a year ago

1974 01 17

The number of books borrowed from libraries in the region since the early tv closedown came into force has gone up considerably. Late evening boredom in Huntingdon and St Neots has, according to the county librarian, Mr Reg Keyworth, given rise to a "substantial increase" in the number of books being taken out. "People have been coming into the libraries saying they are bored and want something to read because of the earlier television closing down times" he said.

1974 04 20

Cambridge not on list of first 26 local stations issued by Government [3.12]

1974 05 07

300 young people mobbed BBC disc jockey "Diddy" David Hamilton as he tried to punt down the Cam and forced him to abandon a live radio broadcast. As he crouched under a plastic mack in a Trinity college punt trying to conduct interviews and introduce records to several million Radio 1 listeners the crowd squirted gallons of water at him and threw pepper. Mr Hamilton, who had been keeping up a radio microphone link with an outside broadcast van at Garret Hostel bridge was rescued after a chaotic half-hour during which several people including a representative of the city's entertainment department, tumbled into the river 74 05 07 [3.15]

1974 06 13

Cambridge rock and roll fans were out in force last night for a concert given by the Bluebirds Band which was filmed by a television crew. Dressed in their best sneakers and velvet collared "Ted" jackets, the 200 fans danced the night away to the tune of Telstar and the Shadows and Buddy Holly numbers. It was the second rock and roll evening organised by the Roc Club and manager, Mr Charlie Flack, said that if the club succeeded in buying the old Rex Cinema, top name groups would be playing there. The film is part of a series "Portraits of Places" which is to be screened on Independent Television next month.

1974 06 26

Cambridge not on list of 24 stations issued by Government [3.12]

1975 05 20

Four men ran a pirate commercial radio station from remote spots in the Cambridgeshire countryside, magistrates were told. They were caught in a field near Histon as they had just closed down a two-hour broadcasting session of Anglia Free Commercial Radio. They had previously put out two-hour broadcasts on Sundays from various spots in Cambridgeshire, and the programmes were heard in places as widespread as Exning, Waterbeach and Fenstanton. The magistrates ordered the transmitter to be forfeited. The men were fined between £50 and £70 each 75 02 20

1976 01 21

The Cambridge pressure group Kite Community Action are making a half-hour television film to be screened as part of the Open Door series and will put the case against the proposed re-development of the Kite as a regional shopping centre. They are trying to show something about the people who live there. The film will show the kind of neighbourhood which is likely to be sacrificed in the interests of motorised shopping.

1976 03 30

The first of three aerials for the operation of a radio call-out system for mid-Anglia's "Flying Doctor" service was erected at Hill Farm, Fulbourn, at the weekend. This follows the Home Office decision to grant a licence to the Cambridge Medical Answering Service for a radio paging and telephone system for the Mid-Anglia General Practitioner Accident Service. The new service should be operating in about a fortnight

1976 03 31

A quick morning's visit by comedian Dave Allen and a television crew to the Haddenham Farmland Museum unexpectedly became a full-day's filming. The original plan was to feature the museum in a six-minute slot for a half-hour documentary programme, but when they arrived they were faced with a blacksmith, needlecraft specialists and a brass band, many of them pupils at local village colleges. They had to play at less than normal volume so they did not drown out the filming of a conversation between Dave Allen and Craig Delanoy, the 11-year-old founder of the museum.

1976 06 23

In 1974 the Crawford Committee recommended Cambridge as an ideal centre for a small-scale radio station but neither the BBC nor the IBA has included it in firm plans. There is however some chance of improved stereo reception. The BBC says they "hoped" that stereo transmission will begin from Tacolneston, near Norwich, in the spring. A booster transmitter on the Cambridge gasworks for stereo was a "very long-term project" for which there was no date 76 02 23

1976 10 11

A pirate radio station raided by police and Post Office officials last week was back on the air at the weekend. ABC England, which has been broadcasting a two-hour music programme to Europe each Sunday, was found transmitting at New Town Road, Haddenham. It is claimed the owner of the property was not involved and had merely lent out his shed. Amongst those caught were a number of Cambridge men known to have a keen interest in the cause of free radio. Operating on short wave it has been making regular transmissions since February. A spokesman for the radio station said a broadcast went out from a secret address on a replacement transmitter

1976 12 14

For the first time in two years Pye is going to see its television and radio division make money, but final details of the deal in which Philips Industries will take it over have still to be settled. Jobs are reasonably safe despite the selling off of the radio, television and audio side of its activities: Philips will take on those still working at factories at Lowestoft and King's Lynn. It is prepared to pay hard cash for companies whose losses were running at about £2 million last year because of the commercial benefits of expansion. Both have been busy on research and development work on radio, televisions and hi-fi equipment. Elimination of half the work brings an immediate saving. The Pye group will in future concentrate its efforts on scientific and technical "professional" equipment.

1977 02 26

The BBC plans to open a local radio station in Cambridge as soon as the Government gives permission for an extension of local broadcasting. At present it runs 20 local radio stations, mostly in the densely populated industrial areas of the country but would like to open a further 45, of which one would be in Cambridge. Four years ago two local radio consortia were formed with the aim of applying for a commercial broadcasting station licence as soon as these became available.

1977 03 18

Jerry Bol, the one-man-band, will not be performing his eye-catching acts in Cambridge for the next few weeks; he is off to his home country, Holland, for a round of engagements and an appearance on Dutch television. He has spent almost 30 years here but says: "Things have been pretty tough lately and I was tempted by the offer. But I love busking in Cambridge and I don't want to stop". He began busking for a living two years ago and since then has made numerous television appearances.

1977 09 19

Veteran charity fundraiser Snowy Farr led about 150 children around Cambridge city centre with the intention of filming the opening sequences of a children's television series in which he stars. But Snowy took the wrong turning and helpful police radioed around the route trying to locate him; over-exuberant children kept overtaking his bike; cats fell off the trailer and the goats couldn't get through the crowd. And then, to cap it all, sirens screamed and blue lights flashed as three fire engines raced up Trinity Street to the Whim Restaurant. The whole thing was organised by a group of independent cameramen who are planning to sell a series to foreign television networks.

1977 11 11

Cambridge University Broadcasting group formed (on air 1979) [3.17.5]

1978 07 10

Hundreds of people on Jesus Green Cambridge saw stars of television, stage and the music world in the heats of the Thames Television Star Games contest. Broadcaster Cliff Michelmore suffered a calf muscle injury which will put him out of sporting action for four weeks and singer-song writer Jackie Trent was among the others who limped off after the finals. But though the stars are probably more used to flexing their artistic muscles rather than their mainly lily-white limbs, they came through the day with cheers and about £10,000 for charity. The crowds saw singer Joe Brown lead his team to victory; Dickie Henderson's team were second.

1979 05 01

The garage, television and radio business run at Sawston by a former Battle of Britain pilot, Frank Vindis, is a high-flying concern. He first opened his small garage nearly 20 years ago and became an agent for Volkswagen and Audi cars, selling 400 new vehicles last year. The radio and television side of the business is booming as well. But space for further developments around his High Street premises is running out and he may reluctantly have to start looking in other villages to cope with the rapid expansion of trade.

1979 05 01 c

Cambridge University Radio has on the air after months of delay. Broadcasting from a studio at Churchill College started with news taken from London Independent Radio and was followed by local items prepared by students. At the controls - slotting in their own jingles between records and other programmes - was the radio enthusiasts' chairman, Mr Simon Cooper of Queens' college. At present reception is confirmed to the college but they hope to expand to Fitzwilliam and Jesus as soon as examinations are over. National radio DJs were amongst the guests at a celebration party. CEN c 7.5.1979

1979 05 11

Cambridge scientists investigating light beam communication fear much of the new technology may be lost abroad. Some of the first major applications of fibre optics will be in the telephone networks and cable television. It will be possible to distribute newspapers and journals directly to the home with small printers, introduce electronic mail, receive television programmes, sports coverage and films by subscription: the scope is endless. But Mike Brookfield of Cambridge Consultants says that unless extra funding is provided the market will become completely dominated by Japan and the United States.

1979 05 12

It is costing the Pye Group £1.3 million to close two factories and meet redundancy payments for those thrown out of work. They are Pye Engineering Services in Cambridge, which closes next month with the loss of 200 jobs, and Pye Ether of Stevenage. It is also closing Pye TMC's factory at Livingstone, Scotland. The profits of Pye Telecom - the largest single earner - were hit by competition from major international suppliers but the Business Communications side had a good order book and Pye Unicam orders were 20 per cent up. Sales of the Labgear television Teletext adaptor were initially disappointing but are showing a marked improvement.

1979 05 18

Niggling away in the minds of 1,500 people who work at the Cambridge Instrument Company and at Sinclair Radionics at St Ives is the question: "Will we still be here next week?" The two companies are part of the National Enterprise Board without whose contributions of public money both would certainly have gone to the wall in the last three years. Now Mrs Thatcher's new man for industry, Sir Keith Joseph is planning to restrict the NEB's activities. Sinclair's history has been one of total innovation. It was the first in the field with a pocket-sized electronic calculator, it made an all-new digital watch – plagued with technical problems - and the world's smallest television with a two-inch screen. But it made a £2 million loss last year. Both may disappear for good if the new Government pulls the financial rug out now.

1979 08 03

BBC Television uncovered a wealth of local treasures when its 'Antiques Roadshow' visited Ely. There was a Ming vase, a rich vein of Oriental porcelain, a number of carvings from Africa and Indonesia as well as pieces of local interest. These included a 12ft punt gun, made in 1840, which was probably used in the fens. Strapped to a boat and loaded with 30lb of shot it was capable of killing up to 30 birds at one go.

1979 08 10

Clive Sinclair, the 38-year-old former electronics 'whizz-kid' who founded Sinclair Radionics when he was 21 has set up a new company, Sinclair Research. He hopes to develop a television with an extra-large flat screen the size of a normal home cine screen which would hang on the wall like a picture. He has previously developed miniature radio sets, pocket-sized electronic calculators and a mini-television which he manufactured at a factory at St Ives.

1979 10 09

Cambridge University Radio returns to the air this term, bent on beaming its jingles into more colleges. So far only members of Churchill College can tune in their transistors to university radio but now they need to expand the service. After months of delay the station started operating on May 1st with a wake-up programme of music and news. Now they want to get Fitzwilliam and Jesus College into the service this academic year. But their Home Office licence does not allow transmission beyond college confines which means using a large number of transmitters emitting low strength signals.

1979 10 29

Rolf Harris, the radio and television star, paid a visit to Little Downham to record a radio programme; he wandered about with his tape recorder chatting to people and getting material for 'Rolf's Walkabout'. In the evening the village hall was pack for the recording. A number of local people took part and organisers described is as "a great success with a tremendous community spirit about"

1979 10 30

The name of Pye has been around since 1896. To most people it conjures up a picture of radios, televisions, record players and even records. But none of the UK companies in the Pye of Cambridge group now makes any of these and since October 1st this year, legally speaking, Pye Holdings, the parent group, ceased to exist as a public company. About 12 years ago Philips made a successful bid for the Pye group and it has now become a fully-owned subsidiary. This will improve the future prospects of the companies and the long-term opportunities for employment within them, management claim.

1980 02 02

CB causes interference, jams emergency lines [4.5]

1980 04 09

Eastern England TV plans Cambridge base if wins IBA tv franchise from Anglia (fails) [3.18]

1980 05 30

'Roundabout East Anglia', the BBC's early-morning programme was launched in 1974 as the local newspaper of the air. But now it has been axed leaving Cambridge without any local radio service. The final programme included a nostalgia spot recalling the days when Chris Trace and Tony Scase worked there. Hundreds of listeners have written letters of condolence saying it was comforting to wake up with a familiar voice, some breezy story from the fens and a batch of other people's views on the region's social and economic climates. Now the Corporation has saved another fraction of a penny on the licence fee 80 05 30b

1980 07 02

Cam Radio - Cambridge's only community radio restarts, two-hour programme Sunday [4.3]

1980 07 08

Sinclair Research, the company founded by Mr Clive Sinclair who pioneered the world's first pocket calculators and micro-television wants to buy the church of St Andrew the Great and turn it into a laboratory. They are currently researching computers and electrically-powered vehicles and are looking for premises in central Cambridge. But the church say he is unlikely to get permission because schemes for offices, shops, a language school and a mosque had already been rejected.
80 07 08g

1980 07 10

Hereward Radio starts broadcasting from studios in Peterborough, July [1.11,4.2]

1980 09 12

When Radio Norfolk went on the air last night it gave a sneak preview of what the future could hold for Cambridgeshire. It will be exactly the same economy-style package – a small staff with highly sophisticated equipment broadcasting six hours each weekday and ten at weekends and Radio Two at other times. It will look for audience participation with phone-ins, sport and news. A manager for the Cambridgeshire station will probably be appointed in the autumn 80 09 12b

1980 10 07

J. Ward & sons close Burleigh St to concentrate on Bradwell's Court; opened East Rd 1890s, made bikes, 1930s produced own wireless 'Wards three-valve', late 30s became one first country sell black & white tvs

1980 11 15

Cambridge University radio doubled its potential audience when it went on the air in a second college. Now New Hall undergraduates have joined those of Churchill College in being able to listen to the amateur broadcasters. Home Office regulations mean they cannot transmit beyond college confines which requires low-strength transmitters and a forest of aerials over the city skyline – New Hall now has 12. 80 11 15a

1980 12 23

Radio Cambridgeshire – Hal Bethell plans, to broadcast six hours a day – 80 12 23a

1981 02 18

Cambridge electronics wizard, Clive Sinclair, has launched the world's first flat-screen television. Working with Timex he hopes to produce a million tubes in 1982. The first will be a 6 x 4 x 1-inch pocket television costing £50 able to pick up transmissions anywhere. It may eventually lead to a large screen which can be hung on a wall 81 02 18c

1981 03 02

There are at least 300 Citizen Band Radio enthusiasts in Cambridge; they range from The Womble who at seven years of age can exchange patter with the best of them on her dad's set to Silver Fox

who is 85. But their rigs are illegal, smuggled in and sold for between £65 and £150. The Government says they interfere with television sets and emergency services but the enthusiasts operate a ‘bust fund’ to replace any set seized. 81 03 02a

1981 07 10

Local historian Jack Ravensdale’s curiosity was aroused by some lumps and bumps in an orchard at Swavesey which aerial photographs showed as a castle. Now a television team is working in the village for a new series ‘History on Your Doorstep’ to be presented by Fred Housego of ‘Mastermind’ fame. 81 07 10c

1981 07 15

“To have commercial radio, 4 groups bid (does not materialise) [4.6]

1981 08 10

Upper Staploe, near Eaton Socon, has no pubs or shops, no school and not even a telephone box to share among its population of six people. But this bijou mini-hamlet has eight newspapers and is covered by three local TV and six local radio stations. In nearby St Neots the rough and tumble of keen competition becomes more noticeable. Three years ago there were nine local weekly publications, as well as the News, and at the bonny baby contest in 1978 the infants were outnumbered by journalists. 81 08 10

1981 08 18

The microchip revolution has made the television set the central feature for a host of things from plug-in videos to home computers. The latest is a service called ‘Teletext’ which allows viewers to view pages of information on their television screen. Eventually it will be accepted just as colour television is today. Now Labgear, who employ 170 people at Cambridge and Ely, have come up with a device which can adapt conventional television sets to receive Teletext. It costs around £250 and is aimed at people who wish to keep their own sets rather than buy a more expensive receiver. 81 08 18

1981 08 28

The wired radio system at Old Addenbrooke’s Hospital in Trumpington was installed in 1952 after a public appeal organised by the News. Originally it provided the BBC Home and Light programme. The name Radio Addenbrooke’s was coined in 1954 when Toc H. started football commentaries which were recorded on tape and later related to patients. Then in 1956 Don Hale started a record request programme. When the new hospital opened a studio was also provided by public subscription 81 08 28

1981 10 09

Wards have been in Cambridge for more than 70 years, originally making and selling cycles. By the 1930s they were involved in electronics, making their own wireless receiver, the Wards Three Valve. In the 1950s they expanded into communications, selling televisions and other electronic equipment, moving from East Road to a new shop in Burleigh Street in 1965 with another in Bradwell’s Court. At its peak in the 1970s they won contracts with Iraq and the Defence Ministry. Now it will close for the last time. 81 10 09d

1981 10 14

Shops selling CB equipment have mushroomed in the last year and now the legalising of new FM frequencies has given it a boost. Electroshop at Cambridge Cattle Market have orders for 40 legal rigs and Cycle City Breakers Club say the majority of their members will move over to them, though 150 hard-core members will keep their AM rigs. The problem is children who use bad language on air. 81 10 14

1981 11 18

Four groups have declared an interest in the franchise for the new Cambridge and Newmarket commercial radio station. Granta Radio, Cambridge and Newmarket Radio, Eastern England

Television and Cambridge Newspapers will probably be joined by Anglia television and Hereward Radio. We have seen it all before. Back in the heady days of the Heath Government every town was predicted to have the next commercial station. 81 11 18

1981 12 21

The television is at the centre of a major boom in consumer electronics, with everything from home computers to video recorders, video discs, Teletext and Prestel information services, games and, probably within the next few years, programmes beamed from satellites. But many TV addicts are prepared to watch a picture of bad quality. Now Labgear which has factories at Abbey Walk and Ely have produced plug-in amplifiers to increase the strength of television signals. 81 12 21

1982

Cambridge University Radio broke, go off air, relaunched briefly 1983 & 1984 [5]

1982 01 08

Swavesey will feature in the first of a new television series called 'History on Your Doorstep'. Local historian Jack Ravensdale will show Fred Housego the remains of a castle and mediaeval dock system. The BBC were inundated with letters after its Family History programmes and fears that the pressure on libraries and archivists could be excessive, so they have issued guidelines and Jack has written a book to accompany the series. 82 01 08a

1982 03 30

Telephone Bill and the Smooth Operators have decided to work less. After too many years on the road accompanying Max Boyce and Jasper Carrott this five-man Cambridge group are now playing for the fun of it. But Nick Barraclough has already been booked to host the Cambridge Folk Festival in a BBC2 series and is to introduce three programmes a week on Radio Cambridgeshire which starts broadcasting in May. 82 03 30b

1982 04 06

Pye TVT of Cambridge may lose a £100,000 order for television transmitters from Argentina because of the Falkland Islands crisis but Pye Telecom are still working on a £4,000 order for a communications system for the Falklands Islands. Stansted Airport's three giant Belfast military planes may be drafted into military use to ferry bulk loads nearer the scene of the action. Although they can land on medium-sized runways like Cambridge it could not land on the airstrip at Port Stanley. 82 04 06a

1982 04 29

Radio Cambridgeshire, launched today, will broadcast six hours a day. Not long enough, says Hal Bethell, the manager, but all the BBC can afford at present. It will be a 'talk' station, rather than putting out music that aims to provide a new dimension in reflecting the local scene. He has a team of 25, three in Peterborough, and a shifting body of freelances who have been building up the widest range of background knowledge and contacts 82 04 29, Goes on air from studios at Hills Road, Cambridge – 82 05 01

1982 06 01

The lights went up for the last time on the ABC Minors Matinee at the Victoria Cinema, Cambridge. The final credits brought to an end an institution which has won a place in the hearts of thousands of children. No more will Keith Kendall and his part-time cleaner colleagues sneak into the lavatories to catch some 12-year-olds having a crafty cigarette. Sid Perkiss, who has manned the box office, remembers when two or three hundred children packed the cinema. Now it has been killed by the one-eyed villain, television. 82 06 01

1982 06 12

When the Duchess of Gloucester officially opened St Andrew's Community Junior School at Chesterton she picked eight-year-old Wendy Braybrook to help her pull the cord to unveil a plaque.

Then she was presented with a posy from Lorraine Clark and a book of pupils' work by Brian Hall before being escorted round the building by headmaster Derek Nightingale. Pye provided video equipment to record the visit that was watched by people on close circuit television. 82 06 12

1982 06 21

Cambridge Community Radio, pirate station, silenced for 2nd time in year [4.8]

1982 10 15

In the basement of Shire Hall is an 'emergency planning room' packed with maps, telephones and radio sets. It has windows, thickish walls and a large conference table but would offer virtually no protection from a direct nuclear hit. It is designed to act as a communications network liaising with the emergency services, the water authority, railways and so on during any emergency from floods in Wisbech to the sudden cutting of the county's gas supplies. 82 10 15 & a

1982 11 06

Saxon radio starts [4.9]

1983 02 02

Sandy Heath television transmitter is on the blink again affecting thousands of viewers. It is an embarrassment to the IBA which runs it. News photographer Eddie Collinson was sent to climb 750 feet up the mast to see what the problem was, only to be told that the 48 mph wind was too strong to allow him to venture up. 83 02 02

1983 02 14 c

'Radio Times' features Mike Petty broadcast about Cambridgeshire Photographers on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire

1983 03 20

There can be no doubt about the popularity of film libraries; they range from cinema classics to soft porn. Some shops have the cassettes on shelves behind the counter leaving the hirer to choose from catalogues, others kept the cases on open display. It costs about £1.50 to hire a film for 24 hours with a deposit of £30. It is usual to leave a signed cheque which is exchanged for the return of the film. But tapes only have a limited life; constant use results in 'stretching' and tape 'slap' caused by poor rewinding. 83 02 20

1983 03 29

Jack Overhill, a venerable 80-year-old grandfather, is an all-round bather who has taken a dip in the river at Sheep's Green nearly every day for the last 60 years. All that stops him are ice too thick to break, floods and the even-increasing number of occasions when the river is polluted by oil. Jack was a young shoemaker when he learned typewriting and shorthand to get a job as a clerk and later gained an external degree from London University. He has taught economics at the Tech, been a bookmaker, author and broadcaster and founded the Granta Swimming Club. 83 03 29 p12

1983 09 30

If you are accustomed to awaking to the dulcet tones of Julia Booth, Radio Cambridgeshire's early morning presenter, you are in for a shock. Station manager, Ian Masters' new line-up sees John Richards where Julia used to be, Nick Barraclough takes over his old slot and Anne Bristowe winds up weekdays. There is now no room for long wedges of worthy and dull speech; the news and information has to be presented brightly and accurately. When it opened 18 months ago it was an all-speech station but music is now an integral part of their output 83 09 30 p22

1983 11 19

Richard Spendlove is best known in Cambridge as the announcer at the railway station. But he is also a journalist, TV presenter and historian whose lifetime association with railways is sealed by the fact that he lives in Brickyard Cottage Coldham's Lane, hard up against the railway line. He is also an

authority on weapons whose discovery of a Colt Navy percussion revolver is to be the subject of a television documentary. 83 11 19 p9

1984 11 22

Radio Cambridgeshire donate tapes of WWI memories programmes to Cambridgeshire Collection

1984 11 30

Cambridge could have a new radio station. Churchill College has a custom-built system for piping radio into everyone's rooms from a studio in the basement. Much of the equipment has been soldered together by engineering students, but it works. They run news bulletins and features on discount travel as well as art reviews and general student gossip. Now students have applied for a community radio licence and hope to transmit their 12 hours of music and chat from Girton to Homerton. 84 11 30a & b

1985 01 23

Pye has been in consumer electrical goods since 1922 when W.G. Pye and Co began selling wireless kits. Now from its headquarters in St Andrew's Road, Chesterton it sells a wide range of televisions and radios under the Pye brand name though they are not made in Cambridge and have Philips internals. People have a very strong loyalty to the name 'Pye', so now they are moving back into areas which have been abandoned to the Japanese. Video cassette recorders have been selling since July and hi-fi music-centres will be launched this year. 85 01 23a

1985 02 07

Independent radio "unlikely" [4.13]

1985 03 01

Sir Clive Sinclair is taking a £3 million high-tech centre as part of a major expansion of his Cambridge-based research company. The present headquarters at Willis Road is bursting at the seams so he is moving to the Camtec Centre off Rustat Road. Other high-tech companies in the area include Cambridge Electronic Industries, Acornsoft and Logica. Sinclair this week launched a big advertising campaign for its £100 pocket TV and hopes to sell 200,000 units of their QL computers in . 85 03 01a

1985 03 07

The amazing adventures of Len Baynes over three and a half years in Japanese prison camps have been detailed in his book "Kept – the other side of Tenko". Now they are to be the subject of a BBC Radio Cambridgeshire documentary called "Death Camp Diary". After the broadcast the tapes will be kept in the archives of the Imperial War Museum in London. His recollections are based on a diary he kept, scrawled on torn-up pieces of toilet paper and smudged so no-one could read it. It tells how he lived a charmed life among the stench, squalor and violence of the camps. 85 03 07b

1985 03 12

Millionaire recluse Sir David Robinson was his normal elusive self when he went to Buckingham Palace to be knighted by the Queen. The former television rental tycoon, now 80 and confined to a wheelchair, received the Queen's permission to leave quietly by the visitor's door only moments after having a brief chat with her. Sir David, who has given away more than £26 million, has avoided the limelight in recent years. He even failed to arrive when the Queen opened Robinson College which he funded. 85 03 12

1985 06 01

Cambridge radio amateurs worked as wartime spies monitoring enemy messages – 85 06 01

1985 06 28

Amateur radio operators listened for enemy messages during the war – 85 06 28a

1985 07 26

To be one of first with Community radio (plans shelved 1986) [4.14]

1985 10 17

It was standing room only in Queens' College as undergraduates and dons crowded in to watch the first part of a BBC documentary about their college. Even the bar was quiet as hundreds of college members jostled for the best positions around television sets. There were cheers of recognition for college personalities and hoots of derisions as candidates attending interviews for admission flunked the questions. The Senior Tutor has always supported the project because he believes Queens' has nothing to hide but does not want students to get too excited about the media attention. 85 10 17

1985 11 29

Pye TVT, the Cambridge television equipment company is to close its studio systems plant which employs 230 people – 85 11 29

1986 04 18

Julia Booth returns to BBC Radio Cambridgeshire – 86 04 18

1986 06 14

Philips, the television and electronics giant, is seeking permission for the largest inner city housing development for years. They say plans for 49 flats on the former marina and boatyard beside Elizabeth Way Bridge together with 141 flats in the fields off Mariners Way will help solve the housing crisis caused by Cambridge's high-tech boom. There would be extensive waterfront landscaping and a riverside nature reserve to maintain the meadowland character 86 06 14a

1986 08 07

Pirate Radio enthusiasts group formed – 86 08 07a

1986 11 28

Ian Masters has a face and voice that is instantly recognised in East Anglia. He has had a highly successful career in radio and television as anchorman with BBC 'Look East', doing stints on 'Nationwide' and other shows including 'Come Dancing' with Terry Wogan. In 1982 he became boss of Radio Cambridgeshire where he started an early-morning 'Countywide' programme with dual presentation from Cambridge and Peterborough. Listening figures have shot up. Now having carved a new image for local radio in the county he is off to pastures new 86 11 28a & b

1986 12 22

Facilities in the King's Hedges area are not as bad as claimed: the accommodation is good and most people are quite happy watching television. But there is plenty of room for improvement, say residents. There is a library but more nightclubs would be welcomed by young people together with public lavatories and a chemist's shop and there is only one bus service. 86 12 22

1987 01 12

Sir David Robinson, who had a flair for making money, shied away from publicity. He became Mid-Anglia's best-known philanthropist but lived in seclusion at his home in Newmarket. Sir David was the third son of Herbert Robinson's nine children and joined his father after leaving school. In 1930 he broke away from the family business and expanded into radio, electrical and cycle retailing. Business really took off in 1954 when he set up Robinson Rentals tv business; by 1966 it was employing 1,500 people. He retired to concentrate on horse racing. He later gave away millions. 87 01 12a & b

1987 01 13

BBC Radio Cambridgeshire extends output throughout day [4.10]

1987 02 05

When Margaret Hyde succeeds Ian Masters as head of BBC Radio Cambridgeshire she will be the only serving female station manager. Currently chief assistant to the head of broadcasting in the North West, she has worked for local radio in Merseyside and Radio Lancashire and will miss the 'anarchy' of Liverpool. She sees little reason for changing what is already a winning formula but is looking forward to bringing a 'fresh ear' to the station. 87 02 05

1987 05 28

Cambridge author Tom Sharpe's gloriously irreverent comic novel 'Porterhouse Blue' is about to become a new four-part TV series and the University should be bracing itself. Nothing is sacred: a dignified procession through the streets dissolves into farce and gas-filled condoms fill a college courtyard like some shimmering, quivering wheatfield. Every college is convinced it is based on them. Little was actually filmed in Cambridge: Ely provided a more attractive alternatives. David Jason stars in the role of Scullion, the college porter who will put up with anything from the students as long as he considers them 'gentlemen' 87 05 28

1987 06 08

An era in Cambridge business will end when Pye Telecom changes its name to Philips Telecom. Pye has been part of Philips since 1966. The former name has been on the retreat elsewhere. Pye TTV has been sold to the American company Varian and Pye Unicam uses the name Philips Analytical. The last reminder of the old firm, which began when W.G. Pye set up an instrument company in 1896 is the Pye TV and radio business which has now moved to Croydon. 87 06 08c

1987 07 09

'Porterhouse Blue', the current television programme based in a Cambridge College, does not impress ex-Army Regimental Sergeant Major and now Robinson head porter, Fred Boyne. He has a team of seven porters who look after reception, direct visitors and are responsible for the security of the college and its properties. They are a goldmine of information on who is doing what, where, why and how. Fred says Robinson is the happiest, friendliest college in Cambridge. Students do get up to pranks but there's never anything really seriously bad 87 07 09

1987 07 31

With three local radio stations operating in the area and four community radio groups waiting in the wings, the battle of the airways is set to begin. BBC Radio Cambridgeshire has been operating for more than five years while Peterborough-based Hereward Radio has set up a studio in Cambridge and Chiltern Radio has a wide following in the west of the county. Now a Cambridge Community Radio Group wants to set up studios while Bottisham-based Granta Radio hopes to obtain a franchise from the Independent Broadcasting Authority. 87 07 31

1987 08 05

Newmarket tycoon Sir David Robinson gave away millions during his reclusive life. But details of his will show the self-made multi-millionaire intended his legendary philanthropic reputation to survive him and last year he formed the Robinson Charitable Trust. After leaving Cambridge and County School he joined his father in the family cycle shop and in 1954 set up the Robinson Rentals television business. He founded Robinson College with a gift of £18 million and also gave a £3 million contribution towards the Rosie Maternity Hospital which was named after his mother. 87 08 05

1987 09 08

Anglia Television's famous silver knight is to be replaced by a thoroughly modern logo, as part of a new corporate image. It has been their symbol since Anglia went on the air in October 1959. The silver model, which represents the Black Prince, was commissioned as a trophy in 1850 by the King of the Netherlands for the Dutch Falcon Club. It was the prize in an international contest which was unexpectedly won by an Englishman who brought it back to Britain. It was put up for sale by his family a century later and eventually bought by Anglia 87 09 08

1987 10 22

Staff at the County Council's emergency centre in the grounds of Shire Hall learned a few lessons last week during the hurricane. The bunker has a television but no radio to receive local or national reports. However during the gales the television stations were off the air, so a radio is now to be brought in. The Home Office refused to pay for a fridge, freezer or microwave but these will now be purchased. A generator can provide power for 30 days and water is stored for the same period. The list of those who would use it is secret but would include top council officials, civic leaders and representatives of police, fire and ambulance. 87 10 22

1987 11 05

The average teenager smokes, drinks and spends up to £10 a week on records, clothes and going to discos, a new survey of schoolchildren reveals. They seek romance early, with about a third having a steady boy or girl friend by the age of 11. The majority spend one to three hours a night watching television while most 16-year-olds drink alcohol at least once a week and two-thirds have taken up smoking. Pocket money ranges from between £1-£3 for 11-13 year-olds with older teenagers getting up to £10 87 11 05

1987 12 17 c

IBA announce new radio station contracts φCEN 17.12.87

1987 12 30

Dennis of Grunty Fen a roaring success on Radio Cambridgeshire - 87 12 30 & a

1988 05 06

Granta Radio is one consortium wanting to run a new commercial radio station. It includes the Unex Group and Newmarket entertainer Pete Sayers who know the area. CN.FM is backed by Cambridge Newspapers, Hereward Radio, Trinity and Jesus colleges. They would provide a high standard of service and provide an acceptable return to investors. Cambridge Radio would have high-quality talks with an evening slot for students while the Cambridge & Newmarket Broadcasting Company would be popular and entertaining yet informed on, concerned with and involved with the area. 88 05 06b

1988 06 13

CN-FM has been chosen by the IBA as the new 24-hour radio station for the area around Cambridge. Backed by Hereward Radio and the Cambridge News it will be the most modern radio station in the country, with all the latest broadcasting equipment. It will aim programmes at the 15-45 age group and hope for a listenership of around 120,000 when it starts next spring. It will co-exist with BBC Radio Cambridgeshire. The other contenders, Granta, CNBC and Cambridge Radio wish them good luck 88 06 13

1988 06 16

CN FM selected to operate IBA radio contract φCEN 16.6.88

1988 09 02

Radio Cambridgeshire have made major changes. Out goes popular presenter John 'J.R.' Richards, replaced by Jane Solomons, and local lad Graham Day. In comes Jonathan Staples to the 'New Day' slot replacing Mark Saggers who moves to mid-morning. 'News' columnist Christopher South gets three new programmes with a weekly visit to Grunty Fen to meet Dennis, one of the county's major philosophers. Returning favourites are Richard Spendlove and Julian Dunne while Mandy Morton continues her request programme, Trevor Dann has news of rock music and Jo Pinnock presents 'Nature File' 88 09 02b

1988 10 19

CN.FM 103 radio will launch next year – feature - 88 10 19c

1988 10 20

Three Cambridge computer pioneers hope to revolutionise communications with a fibre-optic cable-TV service carrying eight or nine TV channels, some collected by satellite dishes. Eventually there would be 50 channels, an independent phone service, teleconferencing, a security alarm system, home shopping and remote banking. Cambridge Cable might link with Cambridge University's Project Granta to provide a data transmission service network from Girton to Addenbrooke's Hospital 88 10 20

1988 10 31

The White Witch of Chrishall cheerfully calls herself the local nitwit. A visit to her 500-year-old 'Faerie Cottage' is like stepping into a magical fairyland. Colourful paintings of lords and ladies, shepherds and fairies, along with pictures of pixies and gnomes, adorn the white outer walls of her higgledy-piggledy thatched cottage and make up her 'special family'. "They look after men, bring me luck and keep the witches away", Mrs Cranwell says. She is sharing her magical stories and her wisdom with listeners to Radio Cambridgeshire 88 10 31

1988 12 07

BBC new regional TV centre could be based in Cambridge 88 12 07

1989 02 01

Satellite TV aerials cause concern – 89 02 01

1989 02 10

CN-FM 103, Britain's newest commercial station, aims to provide local news, information and music to listeners in a 20 mile radius of Cambridge. It broadcasts from their main studios at Histon using the latest high tech broadcasting equipment with all its music on compact disc or digital audio tape. It has headhunted some of broadcasting's top presenters such as Dixie Peach, David Hamilton, Nicky Horne and Nino Firetto. They have also signed up 'Bungalow' Bill Wiggins to host a Sunday lunchtime show. 89 02 10a & b

1989 03 03

Jack Overhill was known by many people as an author and broadcaster – giving 55 talks for the BBC and publishing three books. But most people will remember him as a keen swimmer. The founder of the Granta Swimming Club, he took a daily dip in the Cam for more than 60 years. After leaving school at 14 he followed his father's trade of shoemaker and in the 1920s set up one of the country's first football pools coupons. "His diaries and the dramatised novels he wrote represent a most important history of backstreet Cambridge in the 1920s and 30s", said Cambridgeshire Collection Librarian, Mike Petty 89 03 03b

1989 04 21

Radio Cambridgeshire broadcaster Richard Spendlove has made one of the biggest decisions of his life – to quit his full-time job with British Rail and concentrate on broadcasting. The station announcer at Cambridge hopes to build on his popularity with listeners to his weekly 'Reflections' programme and has recently added 'Evergreen', on Saturday evenings. He got his first broadcasting opportunity on the Graham Day Saturday Show when the station went on the air seven years ago. As holder of an Equity card he has been an extra in some television programmes and provided voice-overs for commercials 89 04 21a

1989 05 11

Labgear Cablevision, the television communications equipment company. It makes good profits but its business in the area of satellite dishes, aerials and cable TV distribution systems does not fit into CEI's new strategic plans. It employs 125 people on the Cambridgeshire Business Park at Ely with 100 more at its main base at Abbey Walk, a site being considered for redevelopment for housing. It is one of three that Cambridge Electronic Industries plan to sell, leaving Cathodeon Crystals at Nuffield Road, Newmarket Microsystems, PED & Varelco at Newmarket in the local area. Cambridge

Interconnection Technology, which used to be on the Cambridge Science Park has moved to Scotland
89 05 11

1989 06 15

Cambridge Cable wins licence for 30 television channels – 89 06 15a

1989 09 01

Steve Somers has a passion for country and western music. He won the ‘New Faces’ and was due to appear at the Palladium; but he was on holiday and could not be found. He joined the Settlers and toured the world, then played with the Peter Sayers Travelling Show at Newmarket. Nick Barraclough gave him a ten-minute slot on Radio Cambridgeshire which has developed into his two-hour programme 89 09 01

1989 12 01

Anglia TV officially opened its new base in Jesus Lane – 89 12 01a

1990 02 12

Cambridge’s first independent local radio station, CN.FM 103, is celebrating its first birthday. 90 02 12b

1990 05 12

Philips Scientific, York Street makes redundancies in manufacturing division, making analytical instruments. Sister company Philips Radio Communications axed 120 jobs St Andrew’s Road – 90 05 12a

1990 11 30

Philips to axe 300 jobs including Philips Radio Communications Systems, St Andrews Road – 90 11 30

1996

Cambridge University scientists secure multi-million deal with Philips Components to develop flexible, flat-screen televisions, Sep [Rev]